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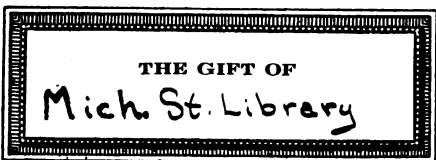
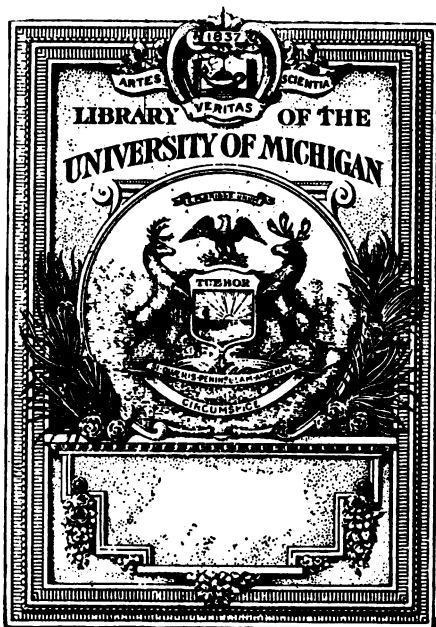
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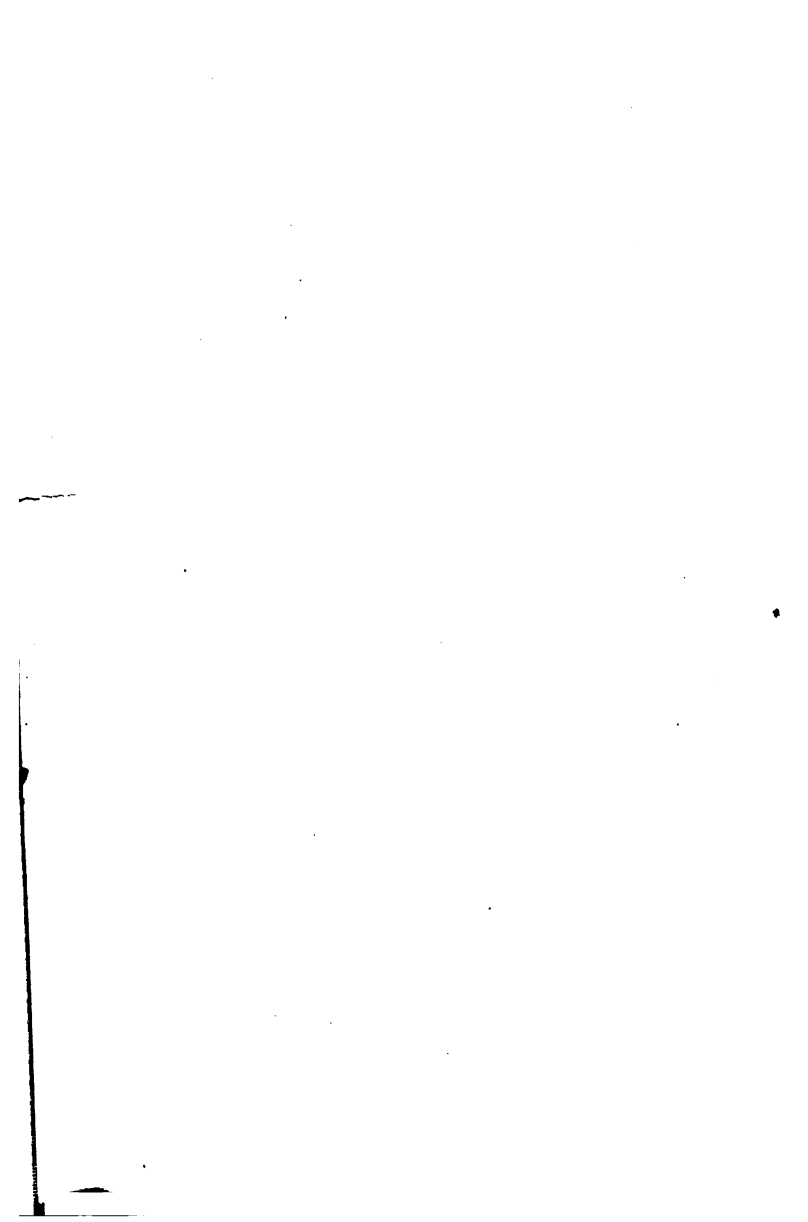
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# HANDY HELPS,

No. 1.



*A Manual of Curious and Interesting Information.*

BY  
ALBERT P. <sup>BY</sup><sub>mp</sub>SOUTHWICK, A.M., 1855-

AUTHOR OF "SHORT STUDIES IN LITERATURE," "QUIZZISM AND ITS KEY,"  
"DIME SERIES OF QUESTION BOOKS," ETC.

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9-19-1923

## INTRODUCTORY.

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"Think on these things."—*Phillippians* iv., 8.

"When found make a note of."—*Dickens*.

"I pause for a reply."—*Shakespeare*.

"Truth is always strange, stranger than fiction."

—*Byron*.

---

## CURIOSITY.

---

"How swells the theme ! how vain my power I find,  
To track the windings of the curious mind ;  
Let aught be hid, though useless, nothing boots,  
Straightway it must be plucked up by the roots.  
How oft we lay the volume down to ask  
Of him, the victim in the Iron Mask ;  
The crusted medal rub with painful care,  
To spell the legend out—that is not there ;  
With dubious gaze o'er mossgrown tombstones bend,  
To find a name—the herald never penned ;  
Dig through the lava-deluged city's breast ;  
Learn all we can, and wisely guess the rest :  
Ancient or modern, sacred or profane,  
All must be known, and all obscure made plain ;  
If 't was a pippin tempted Eve to sin,  
If glorious Byron drugged his muse with gin ;  
If Troy e'er stood, if Shakespeare stole a deer,  
If Israel's missing tribes found refuge here ;  
If like a villain Captain Henry lied,  
If like a martyr Captain Morgan died."—

*Charles Sprague.*

12 Oct. 18. E.H.W.



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# HANDY HELPS.

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## 1. What year contained 445 days ?

The year 47 B.C. Every natural year is the same length. The exact time obtained by the average of computations made by Walther, Tycho Brahe, Delambre, and Laplace, is 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, 49.075 seconds. Now, there is another important natural cycle, sure to be observed and measured at an early period of man's history: viz., the lunar month. But a lunar month is not a common measure of a solar year. Twelve lunar months amount to about 354 days—near enough to lead people to adopt 12 lunar months as their year, but not near enough to prevent great confusion arising, in the lapse of time, where it is so adopted.

Numa, one of the kings of Rome, made the year of twelve lunar months. To this he added one day, because an odd number, 355, was considered more lucky than the even number, 354. To bring matters straight with the solar year, he intercalated an extra month every other year, of 22 and 23 days alternately. This was called *mensis intercalaris*, or

Macedonicus, and it was inserted between the 23d and 24th days of February. This gave an average of 365 days and a fraction, which brought Numa's year to almost coincide with the true solar year. But the machinery by which this was done did not work well. The college of priests, to whose tender mercies the year was intrusted, played sad pranks with it. Sometimes they suspended the intercalation of the *mensis Macedonicus* to oblige their friends. Even so great a man as Cicero used all his powers of persuasion to get the month omitted, in order that he might secure an earlier return to Rome, where he longed to enjoy repose after his labors. By means of these unwarrantable liberties, confusion reigned triumphant in the almanacs. The midsummer sun shone brightly in the autumn months, and when the calendar led one to expect daffodils, an Arctic temperature prevailed.

At length the man appeared who was to put an end to this disorder. One summer, when Julius Cæsar was not fighting battles, he turned his ever active and powerful mind toward the reform of the Roman calendar. He summoned to his side an eminent astronomer, Sosigenes, an Alexandrian, by whose assistance he divided the year into twelve artificial months, some containing 30, others 31 days; and to rectify the 5 hours, 48 minutes, 49 seconds, a day was ordered to be intercalated every fourth year, between the 23d and 24th of February. As the sixth of the calends of March fell on the 24th of February, the intercalary day was considered a



double sixth, whence leap year got the name of bissextile. Now, to straighten matters, Julius Cæsar was obliged to make the year 47 B.C., the longest year on record. It happened to be an intercalary year in which a thirteenth month (of 23 days) fell to its lot. Besides these, Cæsar put in two extraordinary months, one of 33 days, the other of 34 days, between the months of November and December. This *annus mirabilis*, consequently, contained  $355 + 23 + 33 + 34$  days, 445 days in all, and was surely the longest year ever known. Men impatient to return to Rome would surely blame the meddlesome leisure of the great soldier. But no reforms are obtained without some inconvenience. The long year was well called *annus confusionis ultimus*—the last year of confusion, and the year that followed might be known as the Julian year, in honor of its celebrated originator.

The Julian year, which still continues in use (one of its months—July—commemorates its founder's name), did not perfectly harmonize with the solar year. It would have done so had the solar year been 365 days, 6 hours; but the natural year is less than that, twelve minutes, ten seconds, and a fraction. It remained for a spiritual Cæsar to bring the almanac and sun nearer in sympathy and fact. Gregory XIII. found that the spring equinox, which should have been on the 21st of March, fell on the 10th. He, therefore, with the advice and consent of scientific men, ordered the 4th of October to be called the 15th, thus casting out ten whole days. More-

over, to prevent a recurrence of this disagreement between the civil and the solar year, it was ordained that every 100th year should not be a leap year, except the 400th. By this arrangement the difference between the calendar and the solar year will amount to only a day in about every four thousand years. This useful reform of Pope Gregory was adopted at once in every Roman Catholic country, but not in England until 1752, when eleven days were struck out of the month of September, which contained that year only nineteen days.

## **2. Who was first authorized to change the calendar?**

A bill had been read in the House of Lords, a first and second time, in Queen Elizabeth's reign, empowering her to alter and make new a calendar according to the calendar used in other countries, but it was abandoned. In one of Hogarth's pictures of an election there is a banner with the curious inscription, "Give us our eleven days!" The people, evidently, were persuaded by demagogues that the Government had robbed them of so much time and so much money. The astronomers of Pope Gregory having decided that every hundredth year, except the fourth, should not be leap year, the plan has been adopted and will act in future thus: The years 1900, 2100, 2200, 2300, 2500, 2600, 2700, 2900, etc., will not be considered leap years; but the years 2000, 2400, 2800, 3200, etc., will be leap years.

It is probable that this Julian institution, thus

amended and improved, will endure until Time shall be no more. There may be attempts made to change it, as was the case in the French Reign of Terror, but they will be, probably, as unsuccessful. The year was then made to begin at the true autumnal equinox; it was made to have twelve months of thirty days, and five additional days were added at the end, used as festivals, and called "*sans culottides*"; each month had three decades; the old week and its Sabbath were blotted out, and so on; but this attempt to disturb the old order of things was a failure. In twelve years' time it was discontinued, and the Julio-Gregorian Calendar was resumed.

### 3. Where is the Original Declaration of Independence to be seen?

Few people know that the original Declaration of Independence is kept in the library of the State Department. It is in a cherry case and under glass. But the doors are thrown open all day long, and strong rays of light are eating up its ink day by day. The Declaration is written on parchment. The text of it is in a hand as fine as copper-plate, and the ink of this part can still be plainly read. The signatures, however, are written in a different ink, and they are very fast disappearing under the action of the light. The bold signature of John Hancock is faded almost entirely out. Only Joh and H remain. Two lines of names are entirely removed from the paper; not a vestige of ink remains to show that names were ever there. Ben Franklin's name is

entirely gone. Roger Sherman's name is fast fading. The name of Thomas Jefferson cannot be found, and that of Elbridge Gerry has lost its last syllable. Robert Morris, Benjamin Rush, Charles Carrol and John Adams have been scoured off by the light, and only eleven names out of the fifty-six can be read without a microscope.

Just below the Declaration lies the original of it in Jefferson's writing. It is on foolscap paper, yellow with age, and worn through where the manuscript has been folded. The writing is fine and close, and the whole Declaration occupies but two pages. The ink is good, and it remains as fresh as when it left the quill of Jefferson over 100 years ago. It is full of erasures and interlineations, some of which are in Franklin's handwriting and others in the strong script of John Adams. These show but little change, however, from the Declaration as adopted by the people.

#### 4. Who was Burns's "Highland Mary"?

Mary Campbell, his love, a dairymaid at the house of Colonel Montgomery of Lochlea, Scotland. She promised to marry him, and as the time for the wedding drew near she went on a visit to some friends in the Western Highlands. The lovers parted by the river-side, hoping soon to meet again, but God willed otherwise. Highland Mary fell ill on the homeward journey, and, sad to say, her illness ended in death. The beautiful poem, "*To Mary in Heaven*," contains a touching description of the part-

ing by the Ayr; and the thorn-tree which marks the spot where the lovers met is an object of reverence to the country-folk, who still call it "Highland Mary's Thorn."

### 5. Where is the Monkey Tree?

Among the stately and ancient beeches at Burnham, England, may be seen a number of curious and fantastic-shaped trees; some of them are like spectres, and when seen in the twilight, or by moonlight, they have a startling effect upon the visitor. One tree especially, when viewed in a certain position, has a face resembling an ape or monkey clearly visible on the bark; the face seeming to have its mouth open, showing a set of teeth. It is called the Monkey tree.

### 6. What is the meaning of Hobson's Choice?

The explanation of this proverbial saying is given by Steele in the *Spectator*, No. 509. Hobson kept a livery stable, his stalls being ranged one behind another, counting from the door. Each customer was obliged to take the horse which happened to be in the stall nearest the door, this chance fashion of serving being thought to secure perfect impartiality. Milton, in 1660, wrote two humorous poems on the death of the old liveryman.

### 7. What is the origin of the expression, "a feather in his cap"?

It did not signify merely the right to decorate

one's self with some token of success, but referred to an ancient custom among the people of Hungary, of which mention is made in the Lansdowne manuscripts in the British museum. None but he who had killed a Turk was permitted to adorn himself in this fashion, or to "shewe the number of his slaine enemys by the number of fethers in his cappe." It is probable that the similar phrase, to "plume himself," has its source in the same tradition.

### 8. How high was Gilderoy hung?

There were three Scotch robbers, named Gilderoy, living at different times in the fifteenth, sixteenth, and seventeenth centuries. It has been said that one robbed Cardinal Richelieu, and one Oliver Cromwell. An old ballad in Percy's *Reliques* refers to one of them. Two Gilderoyes were hanged. The ballad states of the one executed at Edinburgh:

"They hung him high aboon the rest,  
He was sae trim a boy."

Great offenders were hung *high*, and Gilderoy, like Montrose, was suspended about thirty feet above the earth.

### 9. How was Solomon puzzled?

By Abdemon, one of Hiram's advisers, who answered Solomon's queries and puzzled the royal personage with his own. Abdemon has been called "the quizzing Tyrian."

**10. Who was the traitor at Thermopylæ?**

Ephialtes (or Epialtes), a Trachinian, led a part of the army of Xerxes by a secret pass to attack the Spartans at Thermopylæ. Corydallus, of Anticyra, shared in the treachery. Anthon calls Ephialtes a Malian.

**11. What was the original "Baker's Dozen?"**

It was the Devil's dozen, thirteen being the number of witches supposed to sit down together at their great meeting or sabbaths. Hence the superstition about sitting thirteen at a table. The baker was an unpopular character and became a substitute for his satanic majesty.

**12. What is the rule for plural terminations in grammar?**

"Remember, though box in the plural, is boxes,  
The plural of ox should be oxen, not oxes;  
And remember, though fleece in the plural is fleeces,  
That the plural of goose isn't geese nor geeses;  
And remember, though house in the plural is houses,  
The plural of mouse should be mice, not mouses.  
Mouse, it is true, in the plural is mice,  
But the plural of house should be houses, not hices;  
And foot, it is true, in the plural is feet,  
But the plural of root should be roots, and not reets."

**13. What ruler of England has had the longest reign?**

Queen Victoria's reign is the longest in Britain—from June 20, 1837—with the exception of the three long Thirds—Henry III., who reigned fifty-six;

Edward III., fifty; and George III., sixty years. Though the Thirds are long reigns, they may be called short when placed beside that of Louis IV., of France, who reigned seventy-two years. Louis XV. reigned fifty-nine years; these two reigns, from 1643 to 1774, were 131 years in length.

#### 14. When is "Pancake Day"?

The day before Ash Wednesday. The seventh Tuesday before Easter is Shrove Tuesday, or Shrovetide. Its earliest possible date is February 3rd. Last year (1884) it was the 26th. Among strict keepers of Lent, it is the last chance for "a good square meal" till Easter. As the winding up of the Carnival time of farewell to flesh, it was formerly a period of feasting and carousing. Even at Eton School (England), there was a custom for the students to write verses in praise of Bacchus, and the Saturday before Ash Wednesday was the "Egg Feast." On the eve of Lent, when the time for sensual indulgences expired, the people after eating their fill of fritters and pancakes made preparation to be good for forty days by confessing their sins, and getting absolved by a process called "shriving," and hence the term shrovetide. The bell that called to the shriving was called the Pan-cake bell. Much information anent the old customs of the Church may be found in the curious books of William Hone.

#### 15. What was the "Announcement Extraordinary"?

That given in *The Morning Journal*, of Albu-



querque, N.M., on Tuesday, Jan. 1st, 1884, of I. J. Sharick, the *live* jeweler of that territory, who had in his possession three relics of antiquity, worthy the inspection of the curious, as well as the skeptical, that bear relation to prehistoric features concerning New Mexico, traversed and extolled by Baron von Humboldt. The first was a genuine petrified terrapin, found quite near the summit of the Ladrone Mountains, in a conglomerate formation, and discovered while in search of the precious minerals. The second was a horse shoe large in size. The horse that wore the shoe, bore as his burden an image of Christ, two hundred and seventy years old. The image is in a fair state of preservation and has the date of 1613.

### 16. What is the origin of "Pidgin English"?

It would require years of study to acquaint one's self with enough of the Chinese language to be able to converse in it. There is a written and a spoken one, and the two are so unlike that a man can read and write Chinese without being able to speak it, and can speak without being able to read or write it. Very few foreigners who come to China to stay for years ever trouble themselves to learn the language, but are content with "Pidgin English." What is it? In attempting to pronounce the word "business," the Chinese were formerly unable to get nearer to the real sound than "pidgin" or "pigeon"; hence the adaptation of that word, which means nothing more nor less than "business."

"Pidgin English" is therefore business English, and is the language at the ports of China, or where the Chinese and foreigner come in contact. Few words do the duty of many, as very little inflection is given either in the noun, pronoun, or verb.

### 17. Where is the Phoenix City located?

Although *Ætna* (Sicily) is liable at any time to send a mass of molten lava rushing down its sides, sometimes with little warning, there are no less than seventy-seven villages upon its slopes, the largest of which, Catania, is a city of about 70,000 inhabitants. This may be truly called the Phoenix City, for it has been repeatedly destroyed, yet has risen each time from its ashes more glorious than before.

*Ætna* has been called its despoiler and benefactor, for the decomposed lava forms a soil of wonderful fertility, while from solid blocks of the same material all the public buildings are constructed, and a natural mole of lava encloses the harbor. Since the first recorded eruption, in 475 B.C., there have been sixty or seventy others, some of them attended with terrible results. In 1169, Catania and 15,000 inhabitants were destroyed; and in 1882 a stream of lava poured down the mountain side, which was eighteen miles in length, one mile broad, and thirty feet high. About two hundred years ago such a fiery torrent reached Catania and overtopped its ramparts, sixty feet in height, and then while a part of it fell over the city and destroyed the adjacent por-

tion, the remainder cooled while in the act of falling, and the solid lava may still be seen curling over the rampart like a frozen waterfall.

**18. What is the origin of the phrase "Witness my Hand and Seal"?**

In the year 800 after Christ, what was the state of Europe? The Goths, the Vandals, the Franks, the Huns, the Normans, the Turks, and other barbarian hordes had invaded and overthrown the Roman empire, and had established various kingdoms on its ruins. In the then so called Christian nations, there existed no science worthy of the name, no schools whatever. Reading, writing, and '*ciphering*' were separate and distinct trades. The masses, the nobility, the poor, and the rich were wholly unacquainted with the mysteries of the alphabet and the pen. A few men known as clerks, who generally belonged to the priesthood monopolized them as a special class of artists. They taught their business only to their seminarists, apprentices; and beyond themselves and their few pupils no one knew how to read and write; nor was it expected of the generality any more than it would be at present that everybody should be a shoemaker or a lawyer. Kings did not even know how to sign their names, so that when they wanted to subscribe to a written contract, law, or treaty, which some clerk had drawn up for them, they would smear their right hand with ink and slap it down on the parchment, saying, "Witness my hand." At a later day some

genius devised the substitute of the seal, which was impressed instead of the hand, but more often besides the hand. Every gentleman had a seal with a peculiar device thereon. Hence the sacramental words now in use, "Witness my hand and seal," affixed to modern deeds, at least serve the purpose of reminding us of the ignorance of the Middle Age.

**19. What are the only two cases of female lynching?**

The first occurred in 1851, at Donnevillle, a mining camp in the Bodie district of California, and the victim was a Spanish woman named Inez Paria, who had murdered and robbed a man in her husband's saloon. The second and last case was the lynching of Mrs. Cuddingham, in Ouray, Colorado, in February, 1884.

**20. How did Richard Brinsley Sheridan win his wife?**

When Sheridan first met his second wife, who was then a Miss Ogle, years of dissipation had sadly disfigured his once handsome features, and only his brilliant eyes were left to redeem a nose and cheeks too purple in hue for beauty. "What a fright!" exclaimed Miss Ogle, loud enough for him to hear. Instead of being annoyed by the remark, Sheridan at once engaged her in conversation, put forth all his powers of fascination, and resolved to make her not only reverse her opinion, but actually fall in love with him. At their second meeting she thought him ugly, but certainly fascinating. A week or

two afterward he had so far succeeded in his design that she declared she could not live without him. Her father refused his consent unless Sherldan could settle fifteen thousand pounds upon her, and in his usual miraculous way he found the money.

## 21. What forty rivers have the same name?

*Aa*, the name of a number of rivers and streams in the north of France, Holland, Germany and Switzerland. As many as forty have been enumerated. The word is said to be of Celtic origin, but it is allied to the old German word *aha*, Celtic *ahva*, identical with the Latin *aqua*, "water." *Ach* or *Aach*, is another form of the same word. Four streams of the name of *Ach* flow into the Lake of Constance. The plural of the word is *Achen* (waters, springs), which is the German name of Aix-la-Chapelle. *Aix*, the French name of so many places connected with springs, is derived from the Latin *Aquæ*, which became in old French *Aigues*, and then *Aix*.

## 22. What is the *Zauschneria*?

A flowering plant brought from California more than thirty years ago, and named after M. Zauschner, a Bohemian botanist. There is only one species known, and it has not been called by a common name. It is a perennial, belonging to the evening primrose. It has numerous stems from one to two feet high, with ovate and ovate-lanceolate leaves, which, like the other parts of the plant, are soft and downy; flowers sessile in the axils of the upper leaves, in the form of a raceme. They are about

two feet in length, and resemble those of the fuchsia, belonging to the same family; long calix, four-lobed, corolla four petaled, both of brilliant scarlet. The eight stamens and the long style project beyond the corolla. The seeds, which may generally be found in the seed stores, have each a tuft of silky hairs. It flourishes in New York and New England on dry soil if protected during the winter.

**23. Who "put out" the eyes of nearly fifteen thousand prisoners?**

In 1014, the Emperor Basil, having defeated the Bulgarians and captured 15,000, caused their eyes to be put out, leaving each hundreth man—150 only of the captives—with one eye to enable him to conduct his countrymen home.

**24. Where is the simplest post-office in the world?**

In the Magellan Straits, where it has been established for years. It consists of a small cask, which is chained to the rocks of the extreme cape in the straits, opposite Tierra del Fuego. Each passing ship sends a boat to open the cask and take the letters out and place others in it. The post-office is self-acting, therefore it is under the protection of all the navies of all nations, and up to the present time there is not a single case to report in which any abuse of the privilege it affords has taken place.

**25. How did Canada derive its name?**

The origin of the word "Canada" is a little curi-

ous. The Spaniards visited that country before the French in search of gold, but when they found none often said among themselves, "*Aca nada*" (there is nothing here). The Indians, who watched them closely, caught this sentence and learned its meaning. Afterwards the French came, and the Indians, not pleased to see them, and supposing that they came only on the same pursuit, tried to discourage them from staying by saying to them "*Aca nada, Aca nada !*" The French accepted this as possibly the name of the people or country or both, and gave it to them, the name finally losing its first letter.

## 26. When were bells first used ?

Bells are said to have been introduced by Paulinus, Bishop of Nole, in Campagna, about 400, and first known in France, in 550. The army of Clothair II., King of France, was frightened from the siege of Sens by the ringing of the bells of St. Stephen's Church. The second excerpt of King Egbert commands every priest, at the proper hours, to sound the bells of his church. Bells were used in churches by order of Pope John IX., about 900, as a defence by ringing them against thunder and lightning. Bells were first cast in England by Turkeytel, Chancellor of England under Edward I. His successor improved the invention, and caused first two tunable sets to be put up at Croyland Abbey, 960. The celebrated "*Song of the Bell*," by Schiller, has been frequently translated. Bells were anointed and baptized in churches, it is said, from

the tenth century. The bells of the priory of Little Dunmore, in Essex, were baptized by the names of St. Michael, St. John, Virgin Mary, Holy Trinity, etc., in 1501. The great bell of Notre Dame, in Paris, was baptized by the name of the Duke of Angouleme, 1816. On the continent, in Roman Catholic countries, they baptize bells as we do ships, but with religious ceremony.

**27. Where was the little mud town Lutetia?**

On a small island in the Seine River, but from it has grown "Paris the magnificent." It would always have remained so had any non-annexation policy prevailed. From thirty-seven acres Paris has grown to include 18,315 acres.

**28. Have Reptiles feathers?**

Mr. Grant Allen, who describes himself as a wandering and lazy field naturalist, has been examining the ancestry of birds. They are reptiles with feathers, he states. To call them "flying animals" would not be sufficiently distinctive; for some birds, like the ostrich, do not fly, and some animals, like bats and squirrels, fly without being birds. They build nests, but so do water-moles and field-mice. They have horny bills, but so have turtles. In short every other apparently distinctive point about birds except the possession of feathers is, when examined, not distinctive at all.

**29. What religious sect believes in 136 hells?**

For the punishment of the wicked, there are, in



the Buddhistic belief, 136 hells, situated in the interior of the earth. At death, the soul of the sinner will enter the form of a woman, a stone, an inanimate clod, some reptile, or it may pass to one of the many hells, which have varying degrees of punishment, the least time in which is 10,000,000 years.

### 30. Who was the hero of Montelimar ?

Among the valient women who figure in history, one whose courage has not been so often recalled to mind by the pen of poet and historian, is a brave girl of Dauphiny, Margot Delaye, who shares with Joan of Arc (D'Arc) and Jeanne Hachette the reverence of France. Her exploit occurred during the religious wars of France, at Montélimar, a little city on the Roubion, nestled among vineyards and groves of mulberry, between Lyons and Avignon, in the most delightful part of sunny France. In 1570, Admiral Coligny laid siege to Montélimar, but met with a most determined resistance. The citizens stubbornly refused to yield to the great Huguenot leader, and enthusiasm nerved all classes to resistance. When at last a storming party succeeded in planting a ladder at the spot which the defenders had overlooked, and where none but women and disabled men happened to be, Margot rushed to the spot, and, seizing a crowbar, began to throw down the loose stones of the wall. Man after man went down, but one finally made his way up, so that he could almost reach the brave girl with his sword, when, summoning all her strength, she

dislodged several massive stones that swept soldier and ladder down, and buried her assailant in the ditch. The troops that had watched her efforts made no farther attempt, and Margot became the heroine of Montélimar, and the idol of France.

**31. What is the origin of the word "pinchbeck"?**

This composition, the alloy of which cheap watch-cases are sometimes made, was named after Christopher Pinchbeck, a London toy-seller, who died about ten years ago; that is, in 1874.

**32. What is the name of the oldest street in the world?**

The oldest street of which we know the name, in the oldest city now in existence, is named in the Acts of the Apostles, ix. 11, when "the Lord said unto him (Saul of Tarsus), Arise and go into the street which is named Straight." Saul *boarded* on Straight street, in Damascus.

**33. When was the last gold spike driven?**

The ceremony of laying the last rail on the Northern Pacific Railroad was observed September 8th, 1883, the day appointed. A gold spike and a silver wedge were used in fixing it in its place. This road, which is the third great "thoroughfare" covers with its branches 5,624 miles. Work was begun at both ends, and the last rail was laid near Helena, Montana. That rail was attached to a Western Union telegraph wire running into the branch office at No. 8 Broad street, New York; and while President Villard was

driving the gold spike, the blows of his silver wedge were repeated in that city on the telegraph instrument. General officers of the road gathered about it and listened to the strokes which told of the completion of this great undertaking.

**34. What noted graves have recently been opened?**

Excavations in Cole's Hill, Plymouth, Massachusetts, in December, 1883, have opened the graves of two pilgrims who came over in the "Mayflower," and were buried during the first winter in America. They are the only graves of the first settlers positively identified.

**35. What peculiar weed grows in the Arkansas Valley?**

One that has often proved misleading to sportsmen. It is shaped like a ball and varies in size from one foot or less in diameter to five or six feet, some specimens being as tall as a man. It grows upon a small stem, which is, however, stout enough to bear the mass till it has ripened and dried, when a puff of wind will blow it over and snap the slender support. Then it is that every gust of wind sends it rolling over the prairie, bounding over bushes and rocks with the greatest elasticity and lightness. When the wind is strong and high these tumbling weeds present a most peculiar appearance as they bound from rock to rock, and in more than one instance hunters have mistaken them for bisons and

felt considerable irritation at the impossibility of bringing them within range of their guns.

**36. What are the fourteen noted "kings"?**

The most powerful king on earth is *wor-king*; the laziest king, *lur-king*; the meanest king, *shir-king*; the most disgusting, *smir-king*; and the most popular, *smo-king*; and the most disreputable, *jo-king*; and the leanest one, *thin-king*; and the thirstiest one, *drin-king*; and the slyest, *win-king*; and the most garrulous one, *tal-king*. And there is the *bac-king*, whose trade is a perfect mine; the dark skinned monarch, *blac king*, who cuts the greatest shine; not to speak of *ran-king*, whose title is out of the question; or famous ruler, *ba-king*, of good finance digestion. And there is some poetry *spea-king* in all this.

**37. What poem was written by "Bob" Ingersoll?**

The one entitled "The Birthplace of Burns." Visiting Scotland and the humble little cottage near Ayr, where Burns was born, he indited the following graceful tribute to the famous poet:

" Though Scotland boasts a thousand names  
Of patriot, king, and peer,  
The noblest, grandest of them all,  
Was loved and cradled here.  
Here lived the gentle peasant-prince,  
The loving cotter-king;  
Compared with him the greatest lord  
Is but a titled thing.

" 'Tis but a cot roofed in with straw,  
A hovel made of clay,

One door shuts out the snow and storm,  
One window greets the day.  
And yet I stand within this room  
And hold all thrones to scorn,  
For here, beneath this lowly thatch,  
Love's sweetest bard was born.

' Within this hallowed hut I feel  
Like one who clasps a shrine,  
When the glad lips at last have touched  
The something deemed divine.  
And here the world, through all the years,  
As long as day returns,  
The tribute of its love and tears  
Will pay to Robert Burns."

### 38. What river has thirteen mouths?

The Don, which empties into the Sea of Azof (Azov). The latter is diminishing in volume, and may one day, perhaps, become a vast marsh. A curious phenomenon occurs here during particular seasons; when the east wind blows violently, the sea retires in a remarkable manner. On these occasions, the people who live at Taganrog can pass dryshod to the opposite coast, a distance of nearly fourteen miles. But this is a hazardous journey, involving sometimes, the fate of Pharaoh; for when the wind changes, which happens at times very suddenly, the waters return with great speed to their usual bed, and many lives are lost. The sea, however, is so shallow at Taganrog that vessels drawing from eight to ten feet of water cannot approach the town within ten miles, except about midsummer, when the water is deepest, and the sea crowded with small craft. Taganrog, which commands a fine view of the sea of Azof, was founded by Peter the

Great, but its situation allows no commerce only during about three months of the year. Were it not for this want of deep water, it would rival Cherson and Odessa.

**39. Where are ministers not allowed to enter?**

In Girard College, Philadelphia. A noted peculiarity of Stephen Girard's (1750-1831) will, in relation to this institution of learning, is that no professing ecclesiastic, missionary, or clergyman of any sect whatever, shall be allowed on the premises, even as a visitor. The officers of the college are required to instruct the pupils in a pure morality, and allow them to adopt, voluntarily, their own religious opinions. It is said of Girard, one of the most successful merchants of the early part of the nineteenth century, that the claims of religion having brought him no happiness, and suffering from the treachery of one of its leading exponents, he looked upon it as a sham, and openly avowed his unbelief. He worked on Sunday to show his disregard for the opinions of orthodoxy, and his ships he named after the most noted of the French infidels of the Voltair school. His bequests for various charitable purposes amounted to \$6,910,000.

**40. What general was surnamed "The Tempest"?**

Duke of Abrantes—Andoche Junot—a colonel-general of French hussars under Napoleon I. He was at Bussy-le-Grand, in Burgundy, in 1771; was

raised from the ranks for bravery, and became an officer of such impetuous valor that he was known as "the Tempest." He distinguished himself in Bonaparte's Italian and Egyptian campaigns; commanded in Portugal; served in Spain and Russia; and, finally, died insane at Montbard, France, in 1813.

**41. Whom did Sir Walter Raleigh "seal up"?**

In his younger days, Sir Walter had a violent temper. On one occasion, while talking with some friends at a tavern, he was much annoyed by the remarks of a talkative young fellow, named Charles Chester. At last Raleigh's patience gave way, and seizing the impertinent youth, he gave him a sound beating; then he laid him upon his back and sealed his moustache and beard over his mouth with hard wax. He was not again interrupted by the loquacious youth.

**42. What are the "curious things" in the Tower of London?**

A spear head from Marathon, the cloak on which Wolfe breathed his last at the capture of Quebec, two kettle-drums from Blenheim, ten small cannon presented to Charles II., when he was a boy, by the brass-founders of London, and the crown jewels. Her Majesty's crown is surmounted by a cross, in the centre of which is a splendid sapphire. In the front is a ruby, heart-shaped, which was worn by the Black Prince. The present Prince of Wales

wears no jewels in his coronet. It is of pure gold. The sceptre, with a cross, is placed in the sovereign's right hand; that with a dove in the left.

**43. What is the origin of the proverb, "Don't leave a stone unturned"?**

The following is said to be the origin of this proverb: After one of the great battles of antiquity, the vanquished general hid a vast amount of precious treasure in a field. A Theban who was aware of the fact went and bought the field for the sake of the treasure it contained. He searched diligently for the hidden wealth, but could not find it, and when he went to the oracle of Delphi to ask advice, he was told that if he turned over every stone in the field he would find what he sought. He returned and did so, and found the treasure.

**44. How did South Carolina become a rice state?**

"The destiny of the Palmetto State was changed by a single lucky experiment. In 1696, when the colony was little more than thirty years old, the pioneers were still engaged in buying furs from the Indians, extracting rosin, tar, and turpentine from the pines, cutting timber for shipment, and growing slender harvests of grain on the light soil along the coasts. Attempts had already been made to grow indigo, ginger, and cotton; but these had not answered the expectation. A small and unprofitable kind of rice had also been tried in 1683. But one Thomas Smith thought that a patch of wet land at the back of his garden in Charleston resembled



the soil he had seen bearing rice in Madagascar. It chanced in 1696 that a brigantine from that island anchored in distress near Sullivan's Island, and the captain, an old friend of this enterprising Thomas Smith, was able to furnish him a bag of Madagascar rice for seed. It grew luxuriantly in the wet corner of the garden, and the seed from this little harvest was widely distributed. In three or four years the art of husking the rice was learned. African slaves were easily procured in the West Indies, and the face of society in the young state was presently changed. South Carolina became a land of great planters and of a great multitude of toiling negroes. Smith was raised to the rank of landgrave, and made governor of the colony three years after the success of his rice-patch. The new grain was at first grown on uplands; but the planters afterward discovered that the neglected swamps were more congenial and less exhaustible. The cruelly hard labor of separating the grains from the adhering husks crippled the strength and even checked the increase of the negroes; but in the years just preceding the Revolution this task came to be performed with mills driven by the force of the incoming and outgoing tides, or turned by horses and oxen. A hundred and forty thousand barrels of Carolina rice, of four or five hundred weight apiece, were annually exported before the War of Independence. Through the example of its governor, rice culture spread into the Georgia colony, and completed the ruin of the silk business."— *Dr. Eggleston.*

**45. Who was Johnny Apple-seed?**

This name was applied to Jonathan Chapman, a native of Boston, Mass., who was born in 1775, and died at the age of seventy-two. He was one of the pioneer heroes of Ohio. Gathering apple-seeds from cider presses of Pennsylvania, he planted them along the banks of the Ohio, Marietta, and Muskingum Rivers, and White Woman Creek.

**46. What statue is four times the size of the famous Colossus of Rhodes?**

The Bartholdi statue of *Liberty Enlightening the World* now (March, 1885) being erected on Bedloe's Island, New York harbor. It is made of two thousand copper plates riveted into an interior ground-work of iron. The eyes are two feet and two inches in diameter. Forty persons have sat inside the head at one time. The forefinger of the right hand is eight feet and two inches long, and four feet ten inches around the second joint. The statue weighs 220 tons, and is 151 feet high. It is to be set upon a granite base 170 feet high, making the total height of the statue 321 feet. The statue is the gift of the French people, and the granite base is erected by the city of New York.

**47. What was the original name of Niagara?**

The name of Niagara has passed through many orthographical changes in the last 200 years. In 1687 it was written Oniageragh. In 1686 Governor Dongan appeared uncertain about it and spelled it Ohniagero, Onyogara, and Onyagro. The French

in 1688 to 1700 wrote it to Niaguro, Onyagare, Onyagra, and Oneygra. Philip Livingston wrote in 1720 to 1730, Octjagara, Jagera, and Yagerah; and Schuyler and Livingston, commissioners of Indian affairs, wrote it, in 1720, Onjagerae, Ochiagara, etc. In 1721, it was written Onjagora, Oniagara, and accidentally probably, Niagara, as at present. Lieutenant Lindsay wrote it Niagara in 1751. So did Captain De Lancey (son of Governor De Lancey), who was an officer in the English army that captured Fort Niagara from the French in 1759. These pioneers may, however, be excused in view of the fact—as will be attested by postmasters—that some letter-writers of to-day seem quite as undecided about the orthography of this world-wide familiar name.

#### 48. Who Called Egypt "The Gift of the Nile"?

Little, if any, rain falls in Egypt, and the country, if it were not for another reason, would be as waste a desert as the great Sahara. The River Nile rises in the tropical part of Africa, and here there is an abundance of rain in the spring, which fills up all the tributaries that feed the Nile. The river begins to rise about the middle of July, reaches its greatest height about the end of September, begins to fall about the middle of October, and reaches its lowest point in the month of April. The Nile has thus so irrigated and fertilized the country as to make it very productive. This periodical overflow

of the mysterious river has led the Egyptians to worship it; and the fertilization of the otherwise barren desert by the Nile has led the Greek historian, Herodotus, to bestow upon Egypt this well-deserved and euphonious title.

#### **49. When and where was Iron first discovered ?**

"The history of its discovery and use is lost in the remoteness of antiquity, since from its affinity for oxygen and its tendency to rust and thus lose its form, it can hardly be expected that any tangible evidence of its use in ancient times should have been preserved to our day. . . . In the tombs of Thebes, which date about 4000 years ago, pictorial inscriptions are found which represent persons using iron utensils. . . . There can be little doubt that the Hebrews learned of the Egyptians the art of preparing iron from ore, since an ancient mine worked by the Egyptians has been found in Egypt, at Mammauri between the Nile and the Red Sea."—*Great Industries of the United States*.

#### **50. What doors are books ?**

The great bronze doors of the halls of the Senate Chamber and House of Representatives in the capitol at Washington, for they are covered with scenes from the history of America from the discovery by Columbus.

#### **51. When did "chimneys come in fashion" ?**

In the year 1200 they were scarcely known in England. One only was allowed in a religious

house, one in a manor house, and one in the great hall of a castle or lord's house; but in other houses the smoke found its way out as it could. The writers of the fourteenth century seem to have considered them as the newest invention of luxury. In Henry VIII.'s reign, the University of Oxford had no fire allowed; for it is mentioned that after the students had supped, having no fire in winter, they were obliged to get heat in their feet by taking a good run for half an hour before they retired for the night. Holinshed, in the reign of Elizabeth, describes the rudeness of the preceding generation in the arts of life. "There were," he states, "very few chimneys; even in the capital towns, the fire was laid to the walls, and the smoke issued out at the door, roof, or window. The houses were wattled and plastered over with clay, and all the furniture and utensils were wood." In 1689, a tax of two shillings was laid on chimneys.

**52. What is the derivation of the phrase, "A wild goose chase"?**

The name was given to a kind of racing, resembling the flying of wild geese, in which, after one horse had gained the lead, the other was obliged to follow after. As the second horse generally exhausted himself in vain efforts to overtake the first, this mode of racing was finally discontinued.

**53. Where are the "sunken cities"?**

There are numerous legends of sunken cities scattered throughout Ireland, some of which are of a

most romantic origin. Thus, the space now covered by the Lake of Inchiguis is reported in former days to have been a populous and flourishing city; but for some dreadful and unabsolved crime, tradition states, it was buried beneath the deep waters. The dark spirit of its king still resides in one of the caverns which border the lake, and once every seven years at midnight he issues forth mounted on his white charger, and makes the complete circuit of the lake, a performance which he is to continue till the silver hoofs of his steed are worn out, when the curse will be removed and the city reappear once more in all its bygone condition. The peasantry affirm that even now on a calm night one may clearly see the towers and spires gleaming through the clear water. With this legend may be compared one told by Burton in his "History of Ireland." "In Ulster is a lake 30,000 paces long and 15,000 broad, out of which ariseth the noble northern river, called Bane. It is believed by the inhabitants that they were formerly wicked, vicious people who lived in this place, and there was a prophecy in every one's mouth that whenever a well which was therein, and was continually covered and locked up carefully, should be left open, so great a quantity of water would issue therefrom as would soon overflow the whole adjacent country. It happened that an old beldame coming to fetch water heard her child cry, upon which, running away in haste, she forgot to cover the spring, and coming back to do it, the land was so overrun that it was past her help;

and at length she, her child, and all the territory, were drowned, which caused this pool that remains."

**54. What was the problem of the Moslem Solomon?**

Three brother were heirs to their father's oxen, seventeen in number. By the Mohammedan law of inheritance, the eldest brother was entitled to one-half, the second to one-third, and the youngest to one-ninth of the whole number. As the animals could not be divided without destroying them, the subject was referred to the decision of Ali, the Commander of the Faithful. The Caliph added an ox to the number, and then made the division. This gave each brother more than his share—the eldest nine, the next six, and the youngest two—and yet left the Prince the ox which he had added.

**55. What was the origin of the song "Hall Columbia"?**

The following is the account of the author, Judge Joseph Hopkinson (1770-1842), written August 24th, 1840, for the Wyoming Band, at Wilkesbarre, Pa., in response to their request: "This song was written in the summer of 1798, when a war with France was thought to be inevitable—Congress being then in session in Philadelphia, deliberating upon that important subject, and acts of hostility having actually occurred. The contest between England and France was raging, and the people of the United States were divided into parties for the one side or

the other; some thinking that policy and duty required us to take part with Republican France, as she was called; others were for our connecting ourselves with England, under the belief that she was the great preservative power of good principles and safe government. The violation of our rights by both belligerents was forcing us from the just and wise policy of President Washington, which was to do equal justice to both; to take part with neither; but to keep a strict and honest neutrality between them. The prospect of a rupture with France was exceedingly offensive to the portion of the people which espoused her cause; and the violence of the spirit of party has never risen higher, I think not so high, as it did at that time on that question. The theatre was then open in our city. A young man belonging to it, whose talent was as a singer, was about to take his benefit. I had known him when he was at school. On this acquaintance he called on me on Saturday afternoon—his benefit being announced for the following Monday. He said he had no boxes taken, and his prospect was that he should suffer a loss instead of receiving a benefit from the performance; but that if he could get a patriotic song adapted to the tune of the "President's March" (then the popular air), he did not doubt of a full house: that the poets of the theatrical corps had been trying to accomplish it, but were satisfied that no words could be composed to suit the music of the march. I told him I would try for him. He came the next afternoon, and the song, such as it is, was



ready for him. It was announced on Monday morning, and the theatre was crowded to excess, and so continued, night after night, for the rest of the season—the song being encored and repeated many times each night, the audience joining in the chorus. It was also sung at night in the streets by large assemblies of citizens, including members of Congress. The enthusiasm was general, and the song was heard, I may say, in every part of the United States.

“The object of the author was to get up an *American spirit* which should be independent of and above the interests, passions, and policy of both belligerents, and look and feel exclusively for our honor and our rights. Not an allusion is made either to France or England, or the quarrel between them, or to which was the most in fault in their treatment of us. Of course, the song found favor with both parties—at least, neither could disavow the sentiments it inculcated. It was truly *American*, and nothing else; and the patriotic feelings of every American heart responded to it.

“Such is the history of this song, which has endured infinitely beyond any expectation of the author, and beyond any merit it can boast of, except that of being truly and exclusively *patriotic* in its sentiments and spirit.”

## 56. What do the Scotch call “The Second Bible”?

The poems of Robert Burns. A peasant was once asked why the memory of Burns was so dear to him and to his countrymen; and his reply, full of truth,

was this: "I can tell why it is. It is because he had the heart of a man in him. He was all heart and all man, and there's nothing, at least in a poor man's experience, either bitter or sweet, which can happen to him, but a line of Burns springs into his mouth, and gives him courage and comfort if he needs it. It is like a second Bible."

### 57. What is the Talmud?

It is the first five books (*Pentateuch*) of the Bible, to which the ancient priests added much oral law, legal provisions, and traditions. It is essentially the Bible of the Jewish people.

### 58. Where is the Spindle Rock?

This curiously shaped rock may be seen on the coast of the Firth of Forth, near Kintrill. It is on the shore nearly opposite to Tantallon Castle, and is so called from its shape, which somewhat resembles a spindle. The waves of the German Ocean rolling against it with such violence causes a wonder that this isolated rock can, year after year, stand the rush of mighty waters ever beating upon its sides.

### 59. What was the immediate cause of Shakespeare's death?

In 1611, Shakespeare returned to Stratford-upon-Avon with an income of \$12,000 from his writings. He had purchased, years before, one of the handsomest homes in Stratford for his family, but rumor has said that he was never a husband to his wife after going to London, though he made a visit

to his birthplace annually. Engaged in a drinking spree with Drayton and Ben Jonson, Shakespeare contracted a fever, from which he died April 23, 1618, at the age of fifty-two, leaving a wife, who survived him seven years, and two daughters. One of these, Susanna, the eldest, had married a Dr. Hall, of Stratford, and Judith had wedded Thomas Quincy. His remaining child, a boy named Hammet, died at the age of eleven. Shakespeare's remains were buried in the chancel of Trinity Chapel, at Stratford. This church, which contains also the remains of his wife, the monument that stands near it, upon which is a portrait-bust of the poet, the grammar school in which he was educated, and the house where he was born, purchased by the national government at a cost of \$20,000, may to-day all be seen by the pilgrim to Stratford.

**60. To whom did Napoleon erect a monument?**

To Girard C. M. Duroc, his favorite general. Duroc was born near Nancy, France, in 1772; became Governor of the Tuilleries; was employed on important diplomatic missions; served at Austerlitz, in the campaigns of 1806 and 1807, in Austria and Russia. He was killed at the battle of Bautzen, in 1813, while escorting the Emperor to an elevation. Napoleon bought the land where he fell, and erected a monument to his memory thereon. This is near Markersburg, Saxony.

**61. What poet has been honored by school teachers ?**

Edgar Allan Poe (1809-1849). His remains, after his death, were deposited in Westminster churchyard, in Baltimore, where they rested for twenty-six years with nothing to mark the place of burial. The teachers of Baltimore, Md., whose recitations had so often been enlivened by the gems of the erratic poet, at last resolved to do him an honor, and, on November 17, 1875, they erected a monument above his grave.

**62. Under what circumstances was the "Star-Spangled Banner" written ?**

Mr. McCarty, in his "National Song Book," informs us that this song was composed by Francis Scott Key (1779-1843), under the following circumstances: "A gentleman (Key) had left Baltimore with a flag of truce for the purpose of getting released from the British fleet a friend of his (Dr. Beanes), who had been captured at Marlborough. He went as far as the mouth of the Patuxent, and was not permitted to return, lest the intended attack on Baltimore should be disclosed. He was therefore brought up the bay to the mouth of the Patapsco, where the flag-vessel was kept under the guns of a frigate; and he was compelled to witness the bombardment of Fort McHenry, which the admiral had boasted he would carry in a few hours, and that the city must fall. He watched the flag from the deck of the *Minden*, at the fort, through the whole

day, with an anxiety that can be better felt than described, until the night prevented him from seeing it. In the night he watched the bomb-shells, and at early dawn his eye was again greeted by the proudly-waving flag of his country."

### 63. Which are the unlucky days for matrimony?

Prospective brides may be interested to learn that there are thirty-two days in the year on which it is unlucky to marry, according to the authority of a manuscript dated in the fifteenth century. These days are January 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 10, 15; February 6, 7, 18; March 1, 6, 8; April 6, 11; May 5, 6, 7; June 7, 15; July 5, 19; August 15, 19; September 6, 7; October 6; November 15, 16; and December 15, 16, 17. Consequently January is the worst month and October the best month in the year for marriage.

### 64. What is "sartage"?

Finland, "the last-born daughter of the sea," is the only country in Europe in which "sartage"—that is, the practice of setting fire to the trees in order to clear the ground—is still carried on extensively. The clearing away of the woods is to prepare the earth for agriculture, but as much, or more, by the preparation of the soil for the cultivation of the seed contemplated, and this is the peculiarity of the usage. The trees growing on the spot selected are burned, and the seed is then sown on the soil thus fertilized with the ashes of the trees. Should the ground thus cleared not be permanently

retained under cultivation, it is likely to become covered again with a crop of self-sown trees of higher pecuniary value.

**65. Why is it the "duty" of Turkish women to wear ear-rings?**

The reason is attributed to the following curious legend. Sarah, tradition tells us, was so jealous of the preference shown by Abraham for Hagar that she made a solemn vow she would give herself no rest until she had mutilated the fair face of her hated rival and bondmaid. Abraham, who had knowledge of his wife's intention, did his utmost to pacify his embittered spouse, but long in vain. At length, however, she relented and decided to forego her plan of revenge. But how was she to fulfil the terms of the vow she had taken upon herself? After mature reflection she saw her way out of the difficulty. Instead of disfiguring the lovely features of her bondmaid, she contented herself with boring a hole in each of the rosy lobes of her ears. The legend does not inform us whether Abraham afterwards felt it incumbent upon him to mitigate the smart of these little wounds by the gift of a costly pair of ear-rings, or whether Hagar procured the trinkets for herself. The fact remains, however, that the Mohammedan ladies, all of whom wear ear-rings from their seventh year, derive the use of these jewels from Hagar, who is held in veneration as the mother of Ishmael, the founder of their race.

**66. When did All Fools' Day (April 1) originate?**

The foolish observance of this day is traced through every country in Europe to the Hindoos, and there its origin is lost in the mists of obscurity. An account of the early observance of customs analagous to those now practiced will be found recorded in 2 Chronicles xix. 12-16.

**67. How did the thimble derive its name?**

It was originally called the "thumb-bell," because it was originally worn on the thumb, as sailors still wear their thimbles. Though first made in England, in 1695, thimbles appear to have been known to the Romans, as some were found at Herculaneum. *m*

**68. What is the "angry tree"?**

A species of acacia. One is now growing on a farm near Virginia, Nevada, that was brought from Australia. It is eight feet high, growing rapidly, and shows all the characteristics of the century plant. When the sun sets, its leaves fold together, and the ends of the tender twigs coil up like a pig-tail. If the twigs are handled, the leaves move uneasily for a minute or more. A singular thing concerning the tree was its apparent resentment on being removed from a pot, in which it had matured, into a much larger pot. To use the gardener's expression, it "made it very mad." Hardly had it been placed in its new quarters before the leaves began to stand up in all directions, like the hairs on

the tail of an angry cat, and soon the whole plant was in a quiver. At the same time it gave out an odor most pungent and sickening, resembling the odor given off by rattlesnakes when *teased*. This odor so filled the house that it was necessary to open the doors and windows. It was fully an hour before the plant calmed down and folded its leaves in peace.

### 69. Where is there Fox Worship?

Among the Japanese, it is said, is a mythical person called Uza. Uza was deified, and honors supposed due him are daily offered to his accredited servants, the foxes. This adoration is accorded in the belief that Uza (sometimes called Inari) discovered and cultivated the rice plant, and all through Japan may be seen shrines or temples for fox worship. It is one of the prevailing superstitions, and the priests of fox temples bring offerings every morning to the two foxes or badgers dwelling securely underneath the small building. At the shrines are two gilded foxes. Before them is placed a tray, upon which are small bowls of rice, and foxes molded in sugar, all supposed to be most gratefully received.

### 70. Why was the temple of Diana burnt?

Erostratus set fire to the temple purposely, June 6, 356 B.C. Being put to the torture in order to force him to confess his motive for committing so infamous an act, he owned that it was with the view of making himself known to posterity, and to immortalize his name, by destroying so noble a



structure. The States-General of Asia imagined they would prevent the success of his design by publishing a decree, prohibiting the mention of his name. However, their prohibition only excited a greater curiosity; for hardly one of the historians of that age omitted the relation of the crime and the name of the criminal.

### 71. What caused the death of Alexander the Great?

There can be no doubt but that it resulted from the immense draughts of liquor he swallowed while drinking the "healths" of his guests from his Hercules cup, which held six bottles. It was, nevertheless, believed after his death, that he had been poisoned by the treachery of Antipater's sons; that Cassander, the eldest of them, brought the poison from Greece; that Iolas, his younger brother, threw the fatal draught into Alexander's cup, of which he was the bearer; and that he cunningly chose the time of this great feast, in order that the prodigious quantity of wine drank by the great conqueror might conceal the true cause of his death. The state of Antipater's affairs, at that time, gave some grounds for this suspicion. He was persuaded that he had been recalled with no other view than to ruin him, because of his mal-administration during his vice-royalty; and it was not altogether improbable that he commanded his own son to commit a crime which would save his own life by taking that of his sovereign. He was never able to free himself from this suspicion, and, as long as he lived, the

Macedonians detested him as a traitor who had poisoned their king. Aristotle, the tutor of Alexander, was also suspected, but with no great foundation.

## 72. What fish has four legs?

Far in the heart of Africa, in Lake Nyassa, lives a black fish which builds a house for itself every year. In the mud at the bottom of the lake she makes a hole two or three feet broad, and allows the earth removed from the hole to form a sort of wall around it. The depth of the hole and the height of the wall measure together from fifteen to eighteen inches, and in this little house the fish lives quite safe from her enemies, and keeps house to suit herself until the eggs are laid, when she leaves the old home to the baby fish, and builds a new one for herself. Though it lives in the water and possesses all the traits of a genuine fish, it has four short little legs that aid it very materially in the building of its mud house.

## 73. What is the "capannucci"?

One of the peculiar carnival institutions of the boys of Florence, Italy, four hundred years ago, as dear to their hearts as is the election-night bonfire to the street *gamin* of our large cities and towns of to-day. A great tree would be dragged into the centre of some broad street or square by a crowd of ready youngsters. There it would be set upright and propped or steadied by great faggots and pieces of wood. This base would then be fired, and as the blaze flamed from the faggots or crept up the tall

tree-trunk, all the yelling boys danced in the flaring light. Then, when the *capannucci* fell with a great crash, the terrible Florentine urchins never omitted to wage over the charred trunk and glowing embers a furious rough-and-tumble fight.

#### 74. What became of the Great Eastern ?

This immense steamer, the master-piece of Brunel's ship-building genius, ended its varied career of twenty-seven years by being bought by the British Government and sent to Gibraltar, where it serves as a coal hulk. It is well known that she is the largest ship in the world, being 680 feet long, 83 feet broad, and 60 feet deep, of 22,927 tons burden, 18,915 gross, and 13,344 net register. She was built at Millwall, on the Thames River, England, and was launched January 31, 1857.

#### 75. When was butter first used ?

The first recorded use of this bovine product, once known as butter, is in the book of Genesis, xviii. 8, when it was eaten by angels.

#### 76. What is the story of Grace Darling.

One of the most interesting objects in the Lord Mayor's show (London, England) of 1883, was the boat in which Grace Darling and her father went out to the wreck of the *Forfarshire* and rescued the nine survivors, at daybreak on Friday, September 7, 1838. This boat is a stout fishing cobble, built for half a dozen oars, and it looks as strong as ever. It is to be kept safe and in honor, as such a relic should be,

The story is only the simple tale of an English peasant girl of three-and-twenty, who had lived for twelve years with her parents on the lonely Longstone Island, and who, after that night of tempest, persuaded her father, the lighthouse keeper, to row out with her, across a mile of stormy sea, to the dangerous rock on which a few perishing human beings could be seen through his telescope. She did it; and she brought every one of them safe back with her. That is all; but it is one of those stories that men do not willingly let die.

#### 77. When were engravings first used?

The earliest record of engravings may be found in Exodus, xxviii. 2.

#### 78. How many words in the English language end in "dous"?

Contrary to the statement given in several of the leading English and American newspapers—the *London Daily News*, notably—that there are but *four*, we append the following list: Tremendous, stupendous, hazardous, amphipodous, harrendous, decapodous, apodous, gasteropodous, cephalopodous, pteropodous, isopodous, lemuridous, and heteropodous. These and other words ending in *dous* may be found in Webster's *Unabridged*, and in works on natural history.

#### 79. Who brought the willow tree to this country?

When Alexander Pope (1688–1744), the great didactic poet, resided at Twickenham, England, he was

sent a drum of figs by a friend in Smyrna. In this was found a small twig which the poet planted, and which had grown into a beautiful weeping willow before his death. At his decease Pope's estate came into the possession of Lady Howe, who had conceived such a violent dislike to the deformed poet on account of his having called her a prude that she destroyed absolutely everything about his villa. A young British officer saved from the general ruin a twig from Pope's weeping willow and, at the beginning of the American Revolution, in 1775, brought it to this country, whither he had been ordered with his command. It had been the young officer's intention to settle on a plantation in the South, but finding this impracticable, he gave the willow slip to Custis, the stepson of George Washington, who planted it at Arlington Heights, opposite Washington, D. C. The beauty of the tree and its illustrious ancestry induced General Gates (1728-1806) to ask for a slip from it, which he obtained and planted on Rose Hill, now a part of New York City, where it stood until quite recently. The tree at Arlington was the first weeping willow in the United States. In the garden of Colonel Kader Biggs, of Norfolk, Va., is a noble willow tree, the offspring of a twig cut from the parent stem that bends its trailing branches over Napoleon's tomb at St. Helena, brought to America in the charge of a gallant commodore of our navy.

**80.—Why does January 1st begin the year?**

It was so done by imperial Cæsar, who in 46 B. C. gave us this new year, governed by caprice or reasons of the most temporary duration, departing from the former Roman system of reckoning the year from the winter solstice, December 22d, and made the commencement on January 1st for no better reason than the desire to inaugurate his reform with a new moon.

**81.—What is the meaning of the term "Creole"?**

The word is commonly applied in books to the native of a Spanish colony descended from European ancestors, while often the popular acceptance conveys the idea of an origin partly African. In fact, its meaning varies in different times and regions, and in Louisiana alone has always had its broad and its close significance, its earlier and its later one. For instance, it did not here belong to the descendants of Spanish but of French settlers. But such a meaning implied a certain excellence of origin, and so came early to include any native of French or Spanish descent by either parent whose pure non-mixture with the slave race entitled him to social rank. Much later the term was adopted by the native Europeans of African or creole-African blood, though not conceded to them, and is still so used among themselves. At length the spirit of commerce availed itself of the money value of so

honored a title, and broadened its meaning to take in any creature or thing of a variety or manufacture peculiar to Louisiana that might become an object of sale, as creole ponies, chickens, cows, shoes, eggs, wagons, baskets, cabbages, etc. There seems to be no other definition of the creoles of Louisiana than to say they are the French-speaking native ruling classes.

## 82.—Where did Columbus first land in the New World?

The discussion about the place where Columbus first trod on the soil of the Western World has received a fresh contribution. Our school histories have always taught that it was upon the island of Guanahani, or Cat Island, and not every one knows there is any difference of opinion on the subject. The current idea obtained recognition through the writings of Irving and Humboldt. English writers have always identified his San Salvador as either Watling's Reef or Grand Turk Island. One recent writer claims it was Hispaniola. The difficulty which the matter has always presented is that it is impossible to identify Columbus's description, and the names he gave the places discovered have long since passed away. Captain G. F. Fox, of the United States Coast Survey, has spent much time in investigating the subject, and has published his report (1882). He concludes that, considering the geography of the region, and the known points of his explorations, and the log-book of his voyage,

San Salvador was what is now known as Samana. He sustains his various positions very strongly.

### 83.—When were the witchcraft panics?

Besides the noted one at Salem, Massachusetts, in 1692, and the breaking out of such superstition in England and France, there is the noted one in Illinois in the year 1779. The following extract is taken from the record-book:

"Illinois, to wit: To Richard Winston, Esq., sheriff-in-chief of the district of Kaskaskia. Negro Manuel, a slave in your custody, is condemned by the court of Kaskaskia, after having made honorable fine at the door of the church, to be chained to a post at the water side, and there to be burnt alive, and his ashes scattered as appears to me by record. This sentence you are hereby required to put into execution on Tuesday next at nine o'clock in the morning, and this shall be your warrant.

"Given under my hand and seal, at Kaskaskia, the thirteenth day of January, in the third year of the Commonwealth."

Whether this sentence was put into execution or was countermanded we have no means of knowing, but it is known that many persons suffered for this crime—the outbreak of voodooism, or negro witchcraft—about this time. Reynolds, in his *Pioneer History*, states: "In Cahokia, about the year 1790, this superstition got the upper hand of reason, and several poor African slaves were immolated at the shrine of ignorance for this imaginary offence."



**84.—What temple has a roof of gold?**

The cathedral of St. Isaac, St. Petersburg, Russia. From the centre of the structure rises a mighty dome to the height of 296 feet, which is surrounded by thirty monolithic shafts of polished stone, and the roof, which gleams like a miniature sun, is covered with a mass of gold worth two hundred and fifty thousand dollars. The cost of the whole cathedral was more than fourteen million dollars, one million having been expended in merely driving into the soil a perfect forest of piles to make a sufficiently strong foundation for the enormous mass.

**85.—Who was “the Continental Salamander”?**

In the year 1826, one Monsieur Chabert, who described himself as such, performed the following feats at the White Conduit Gardens: Having partaken of a hearty meal of phosphorus, washed down with a copious draught of oxalic acid in a solution of arsenic, he drank off a jorum of boiling oil, and with his naked hand helped himself to a serving of molten lead by way of dessert. On another occasion he walked into a fiery furnace, stayed in some considerable space of time, and came out whole and unburned. He represented the furnace as hotter than it really was, though, as a matter of fact, he took in with him a raw beef-steak and brought it out broiled to a turn.

86.—What was the name of the “soldier-dog of France”?

*Moustache*, who was born at Falaise, in Normandy. At the age of six months he was sent to Caen to push his own fortunes. Here he joined a company of grenadiers, went over the Alps with the army, saved the French from being surprised by the Austrians while the former were encamped on the heights above Alexandria, and for this act was rewarded by being placed on the “roll” of the regiment, receiving the rations of a grenadier per day, and decorated with a collar—on which was inscribed the name and number of his regiment—hung around his neck. Passing through many dangers, he at length lost a paw at Austerlitz. Struck by a chasseur (in mistake) a blow with the flat side of a sabre, he deserted, and attached himself to a regiment of French dragoons and followed them into Spain, being killed by a cannon-ball at the capture of Badajoz, in March, 1811. He was buried on the scene of his last triumph—red ribbon, medal, and all. A stone was placed over the grave, on which was inscribed the simple words,

“*Ci-gît le brave Moustache.*”  
 (“Here lies the brave Moustache.”)

A historian of the “soldier-dog of France,” as our hero has been named, states that the Spaniards afterward broke the stone, and that the bones of Moustache were burned by order of the Inquisition.

### 87.—What is the Palatine light?

It relates to one of the many superstitious tales of sailors about phantom ships,—such as the *Flying Dutchman*; the ghostly fleet of one hundred fishing-boats in St. Mary's Bay; Newfoundland; the ship that sails up Narragansett Bay, Henry Hudson's *Half-Moon* at anchor under the Palisades; and is as follows: In early colonial times, Block Island, off the coast of Rhode Island, was inhabited by wreckers. A ship called the *Palatine*, from the Palatinate of the Rhine, loaded with colonists, was lured on the rocks by false lights, and then pillaged and burned by the wreckers. Most of the colonists were lost. A few survived, and to this day their descendants—for some of them married the daughters of the wreckers—are among the inhabitants of the island. On a cliff overlooking the scene of the wreck are several mounds called the Palatine graves, where some of the bodies that were washed ashore are buried. And it is claimed that on the anniversary of the wreck of the *Palatine* the watchers on shore see a ship on the rocks beneath the cliff burning in three columns of flame.

### 88.—Where does Toloachi grow?

Everywhere in Mexico, but more thriftily in the tropical lowlands of the *terra caliente*. It is a harmless-looking plant, much resembling Northern milk-weed, and quite too dangerously convenient in a land where suspicion rules and jealousy amounts to madness. It does not kill, but acts im-

mediately upon the brain, producing first violent insanity and then hopeless idiocy. It is whispered that poor Carlotta, the bereaved widow of Maximilian, had hardly landed at Vera Cruz, on her sorrowful mission to this country, before some of it was administered to her, and her deplorable fate is cited as one among many instances. Of all the dangers in Mexico this is one of the most appalling. Any political enemy, or jealous rival, or offended servant may thus revenge himself in a more fiendish manner than with the stiletto, and without fear of detection: a few drops of this tasteless white fluid, mixed with milk or other food, does its diabolical work with inexorable certainty, and can only be detected by its gradual results.

### 89.—What is a parliamentary whip?

Reports of English parliamentary proceedings often mention the "whip" of a party. Mr. W. H. Croffut explains the term. A member of Parliament exhibited one to him. It is simply a short note from a member of his party to whom the business is assigned, announcing that "a most important measure" will be before the House at a specified time, and "it is absolutely necessary that you be present in your place." All this is underscored with four parallel lines, making it look like a sheet of music all ready for the notes to be written. Many members, however, pay no attention to this urgent "request" when it comes. They will not even be *whipped* in.

**90.—What are the “Three Fountains” of Switzerland?**

On the shore of Lake Luzerne there is a pretty green meadow, shut in all around, except on the lake side, by a steep wall of mountain rising nearly seven hundred feet above the water. In the meadow are three clear, pure fountains of water, and here, every year upon the first Sunday after Ascension, the peasants come from all the country around to “drink healths” at the fountains; for here, more than five hundred years ago (1346), thirty-three brave patriots met and bound themselves by solemn oath to fight for the freedom of their native land; and though Switzerland did not gain its freedom from Germany for two hundred years after that meeting in the little meadow at Rütli, the people remember the effort of these noble men with gratitude, and crowds repair annually to drink of the fountains that have been erected as a memorial to them.

**91.—What capital has been called “the City of Intelligence”?**

The inhabitants of Berlin, Germany, are proud of describing their city as such. This appellation may be well deserved, but even in that centre of enlightenment each recurring Christmas shows that countless legends and superstitions hold their ground. For instance, no clothes-lines are allowed to be seen in the house between Christmas and New Year's, for if they are not all carefully taken down, it

is believed by all good Berliners that a dreadful accident will happen. On the supper-table, on Christmas eve, there must be a carp, which brings fortune, and if the scales of the fish are carried about in the purse it will never be empty during the coming year. All dreams between Christmas and New Year's become true, and all children born on Christmas have the gift of prophecy.

### 92.—Where is Elijuf?

In the Sahara desert there is a remarkable depression covering an area of about sixty thousand miles, this depressed portion being known as Elijuf, and said to extend from within twelve miles of the sea-shore to regions in the close neighborhood of Timbuctoo. The theory of both ancient and modern geographers has been that this portion of the "great ocean of sand" was originally filled with water that flowed into the sea, but that a bar having gradually formed at the entrance, the flow inward was stopped, and the heat of a vertical sun caused the inside water to evaporate. The practicability of reopening this ancient channel is one of the world's questions at present.

### 93.—What is a cantilever bridge?

The principle of this kind of superstructure is that of a beam supported at or near its centre, with arms extending both ways, one arm being held down by an anchor gear or counterweight so that the load on the overhanging arm produces an uplifting force in

the opposite end which is resisted by the counter-weight. The material used in the bridge is steel and wrought-iron.

#### 94.—Who was Robin Hood?

He is said to have been Robert, Earl of Huntingdon, the chief of a band of robbers who held Sherwood Forest in Nottinghamshire, England. He probably lived some time in the twelfth century. A famous archer, he robbed the rich and gave to the poor, but never harmed women, children, or the aged. Michael Drayton (1563–1631), in his *Polyolbion*, sings:

“In this our spacious isle I think there is not one  
But he hath heard some talk of Hood and Little John;  
Of Tuck, the merry friar, which many a sermon made  
In praise of Robin Hood, his outlaws, and their trade.”

#### 95.—Where is there a sinking mountain?

In Algeria, Africa. The isolated mountain Jebel Maïba, which was about twice as high as the Crow's Nest on the Hudson River, is said to be gradually descending into the bosom of the earth, a deep excavation being formed all around as it settles. The neighborhood of Bona must, however, have already been the scene of a similar phenomenon. Lake Fezzara, which measures over twelve thousand hectares in extent, did not exist during the time of the Romans. Its depth in the centre is only 2.60 m. Investigations which were made

in 1870 showed that the remains of a Roman town now lie in the lake; this town has, therefore, probably sunk in the same manner as the mountain.

96.—What noted quotation is taken from the lives of Saul and Jonathan?

Among many other beautiful extracts is that given in 2 Samuel i: 23: "Saul and Jonathan *were* lovely and pleasant in their lives, and *in their death they were not divided*: they were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions."

97.—What was the first riddle propounded?

That given by Samson to the thirty companions who came to the marriage-feast of his wife,—afterward burned with her father by the Philistines,—and for the answer to which he promised to give them thirty sheets and thirty changes of garments: "Out of the eater came forth meat, and out of the strong came forth sweetness." See Judges xiv. 14-20, inclusive.

98.—What is the origin of Agate?

The name is derived from the river Achates, in Sicily, near which these stones were found in abundance by the ancients. They are now found in Scotland, Saxony, and Hungary, and are also brought from China and the East Indies.

99.—What are the oldest bank-notes?

The "flying money," or "convenient money," first issued in China, 2697 B.C. Originally these



notes were issued by the treasury, but experience dictated a change to the banks under government inspection and control. A writer in a provincial paper states that the early Chinese "greenbacks" were in all essentials similar to the modern bank-notes, bearing the name of the bank, date of issue, the number of the note, the signature of the official issuing it, indications of its value in figures, in words, and in the pictorial representations in coins or heaps of coins equal in amount to its face value, and a notice of the pains and penalties of counterfeiting. Over and above all was a laconic exhortation to industry and thrift: "Produce all you can; spend with economy." The notes were printed in blue ink, on paper made from the fibres of the mulberry-tree. One issued in 1399 B.C. is preserved in the Asiatic Museum at St. Petersburg, Russia.

100.—What is the real mermaid of the sea?

The *dugong*, a species of whale taken in large numbers at Queensland, Australia, has probably furnished the slender basis of fact upon which the mermaid and merman stories have been founded. It is about eight to twenty feet in length, lives upon submarine beds of sea-weed, breathes by means of lungs, has a human-like head, with hair resembling a man's beard. The flesh of this animal is eaten, and is said to have the flavor of beef, veal, or bacon, according to the part of the body from which the

meat is taken. Its oil has all the medicinal properties of cod-liver oil, without the disagreeable taste and smell of the latter.

101.—What is the origin of the potato ?

Originally a South American plant, it was introduced into Virginia by Sir John Harvey in 1629, though it was unknown in some counties of England a hundred and fifty years later. In Pennsylvania potatoes are mentioned very soon after the advent of the Quakers; they were not among the New York products in 1695, but in 1775 we are told of eleven thousand bushels grown on one sixteen-acre patch in this province. Potatoes were served, perhaps as an exotic rarity, at a Harvard installation dinner in 1707; but the plant was only brought into culture in New England at the arrival of the Presbyterian immigrants from Ireland in 1718. Five bushels were accounted a large crop of potatoes for a Connecticut farmer, for it was held that if a man ate them every day he could not live beyond seven years.

102.—What are the longest tunnels in the world ?

The Hoosac tunnel, the longest railroad tunnel in the United States, has a total length of four and three fourths miles. It was commenced in 1851, cut through November 27, 1873, and first train of cars run through February 9, 1875, though regular trains did not commence running till the au-

turn of 1876. The original estimate of cost was \$1,948,557, and actual cost up to January 1, 1881, was \$20,241,842.31. The Hoosac is the third largest tunnel in the world—the St. Gothard tunnel, connecting Italy and Switzerland, the longest, having a length of nine and one half miles; while the Mont Cenis tunnel,—more properly Mount Susa,—connecting France and Italy, is nearly eight miles long. A submarine tunnel is in process of construction between Italy and Sicily. It is cut in solid rock, being 114 feet below the bottom of the sea. It will be about eight and a half miles long.

### 103.—What is the origin of “album”?

One of those industrious German writers, always hunting the whys and wherefores of things in general, has made this discovery. The writer points out that in the middle ages the parchment in common use was of two kinds,—the Spanish-Italian and the German-French,—and that the main difference between these varieties lay in the method of their preparation. The German-French could be written on both sides, while of the former only the inner surface was available. The smooth, white side of this latter was called “album,” to distinguish it from the stained exterior, and as the Spanish-Italian parchment, being stouter and cheaper than the other, was generally used for volumes intended as repositories for scraps and literary collections, the meaning of the word “album” broadened out into its modern significance.

## 104.—What is Transcendentalism?

In a lecture delivered in the Masonic Temple of Boston, some time in 1842, Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803–1882) said: “The first thing we have to say respecting what are called new views here in New England at the present time is, that they are not new, but the very oldest of thoughts cast into the mould of these new times. . . . What is popularly called transcendentalism is really idealism. As thinkers, men have always been divided into two sects, materialists and idealists—the first class founded on experience, and the latter on consciousness—the first thinking from the data of the senses, the second considering these data not final, but going back of their representations to find a something—they cannot tell what. The materialist insists on facts, on history, or force of circumstances; the idealist, on the power of thought and will, on inspiration, on miracle, on individual culture. The materialist takes his departure from the external world, and esteems man as one product of that. The idealist takes his departure from his consciousness, and reckons the world an appearance. . . .

“Then the height of duty of man is to be self-sustained, to need no gift, no foreign force. Everything real is self-existent. The transcendentalist believes in miracles, in the perpetual openness of the human mind to new influx of light and power; he believes in inspiration and ecstasy. You will see by this sketch that there is no such thing as

a transcendental party: we know of none but prophets, and heralds of philosophy."

This is the best definition of the matter that has ever appeared; hence it will be seen that the philosophy is in the highest degree religious, all that has been said about it to the contrary notwithstanding.

105.—Where is the most remarkable echo in the world?

The most noted one known is that on the north side of a church of Shipley, Sussex, England: it repeats twenty-one syllables.

106.—What was known as "palm-play"?

The game of hand-ball played by the early French was known by this name. At first the open palm was used; then the hand was bound with cords or a glove worn, and finally the game merged into the game of racket. During the reign of Charles V. this was as fashionable as lawn-tennis at present, and large sums were wagered by the nobility.

107.—How did the practice of burying the dead with the head toward the west originate?

This form of burial has a deep religious significance, but it is impossible to say how or just when the custom originated. It is probably of Christian origin. The rising of the sun in the east led many

to believe that Christ at his second coming would appear in the east, and that those who arose from their graves would face him when he appeared. The custom is, however, going out of use.

**108.—What monarch taught school?**

Near Reichenau, Switzerland, stands a simple old castle or château that has become historic, for here, under the name of Chabaud-Latour, a future king of France, Louis Philippe (1773-1850), when impoverished and banished from his native country (1793), served in the modest capacity of assistant teacher, at a salary of fifteen hundred francs—about three hundred dollars—a year. He was the son of Philippe Égalité, Duke of Orleans, and reigned from 1830 to 1848.

**109.—What has been the fate of the great China Wall?**

This famous work of masonry—originally built by the Chinese as a bulwark against the invasions of the Tartars (215 B.C.), protecting the Celestial Empire on the north, which for two thousand years withstood the elements, was made of blue brick, fifteen feet in width, thirty feet in height, and fifteen hundred miles in length, over all sorts of surfaces, and with innumerable towers along its line—is now fast decaying.

**110.—What is sea-smoke?**

Arctic explorers have met with many peculiar phenomena. In those ice-clad regions, at fifteen

degrees below zero, a steam, as if from a boiling kettle, rises from the water. At once frozen by the wind, it falls in a fine powder. This phenomenon is called sea-smoke. At forty degrees the snow and human bodies also smoke, which smoke changes at once into millions of tiny particles, like needles of ice, which fill the air and make a light continuous noise, like the rustle of a stiff silk. At this temperature the trunks of trees burst with a loud report, the rocks break up, and the earth opens and vomits smoking water. Knives break in cutting butter, and cigars go out by contact with the ice upon the beard.

111.—Where is the most remarkable fir-tree in the world?

In the forest of Alliaz, Canton of Vaud, Switzerland. It is near the baths of Alliaz, at a height of about thirteen hundred feet above the hotel, and forty-five hundred feet above the sea, surrounded by a forest of firs, which it overtops by more than thirty feet. The trunk is a little more than thirty feet in circumference at the base. At about a yard from the ground it puts out, on the south side, seven offshoots, which have grown into trunks as strong and vigorous as those of the other trees in the forest. Bent and gnarled at the bottom, these side trunks soon straighten and rise perpendicularly and parallel to the main stem. This feature is not, perhaps, wholly unparalleled; but another most curious fact is that the two largest of the side

trunks are connected with the principal stem by sub-quadrangular braces resembling girders. The space between the rough flooring formed by the growing together of the offshoots, at their point of departure, and the girder limbs, is large enough to admit of building a comfortable hermit's hut within it.

**112.—Where is there an umbrella a mile wide?**

The city of Buenos Ayres, S. A., has received a singular proposition from two German mechanical engineers. They offer to cover the city with a huge umbrella, the base of which is to be 670 feet in diameter, the height 1500 feet, ribs of cast-iron 31 inches in circumference and 8 feet apart, and lining of wrought-iron one and a half inches thick. The great *thing* when raised will be one mile and a half wide. Around it will be a canal communicating with the Plate River, to carry away the water that might overflow the city. The work is estimated at the modest sum of \$5,750,000.

**113.—When was the first "A B C" written?**

It is an interesting fact that the oldest one known to be in existence is a child's alphabet, scratched on a little ink-bottle of black ware, found in one of the oldest Greek settlements in Italy, attributed to the fifth century B.C.



114.—To what does the expression "humble pie" refer?

To the days when the English forests were stocked with deer, and venison pastry was commonly seen on the tables of the wealthy. The inferior and refuse portions of the deer, termed the "umbles," were generally appropriated to the poor, who made them into a pie. Hence "umble pie" became suggestive of poverty, and afterward was applied to degradations of other kinds.

115.—What was "potable gold"?

A liquor which the ancients never tired of trying to make, and which they thought would preserve health and youth and heal all diseases. It was distilled with lemons, honey, spirit, and salt.

116.—Where is the noted "Old St. David's at Radnor"?

In Chester County, Pa., is a little church built of rough stone in the plainest of architecture by a colony of Welshmen who emigrated from Radnorshire, Wales, about the year 1685. A luxuriant ivy, in pity for its ugliness, has veiled it over front and side with a mantle of living green that gives it an aspect of beautiful old age, and furnishes a charm that it must sadly have lacked in its youth. An open stairway of rough stone that leads to the diminutive gallery is entered from one side of the front—a peculiarity that forms one of its distinguishing features. The little church stands in the

midst of its graveyard, and the white stones gleam thickly amid the grass and evergreens. The grave of one William Moore, who died in 1781, is the stepping-stone to the low doorway. He is branded by tradition as a Tory of the deepest dye, and the disapproval of posterity in thus treading him under foot is regarded in the light of a righteous retribution; but, like most stories, his resting at the church door has another side to it, indicating that it is a mark of honor, a request having been made for burial beneath the chancel, which was refused, but the next best place, that at the church entrance, tendered and accepted.

### 117.—Where is General Anthony Wayne buried?

In the churchyard at St. David's. A time-worn tablet marks the grave of Mrs. Wayne, and bears the additional inscription:

MAJOR-GENERAL ANTHONY WAYNE,  
LATE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE  
ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES.  
DIED AT PRESQU' ISLE,  
DECEMBER 15, 1796,  
AGED 52 YEARS.

His body is interred within the Garrison,  
Near the town of Erie.

On the other side of the church a stately monument indicates the spot where the bones of the brave warrior were interred on July 4th, 1809, having been brought from their original resting-

place to be deposited amid the familiar scenes of his youth and manhood.

The restless spirit of Mad Anthony seems to have characterized even his last sleep, and the two graves have given rise to much discussion, some strongly asserting that the real hero still reposes in the garrison inclosure at Erie, Pa., because so little was found to remove, while others consider the knowledge that his bones at least rest beneath the shadow of St. David's entirely satisfactory.

#### 118.—What was the "forbidden fruit"?

Different nations have given varying expressions as to their idea of the nature of the fruit the eating of which was the original sin. The popular belief is that it was a pippin. Spaniards have a religious reverence for the banana, believing it to be the fruit of which Adam partook. One peculiar feature of this nutritious product is that of its being seedless. The West India plantain (*Musa serapionis*) is called "Adam's apple-tree."

#### 119.—What noted writer was engaged in a fatal duel?

Ben Jonson (1574-1637), the author of seventeen plays, a number of poems, and some prose writings. In 1598 his first play, *Every Man in his Humor*, was brought out at the London Globe Theatre, with Shakespeare appearing in one of its characters. About this time he was imprisoned for a season for having killed Gabriel Spenser, an actor, in a duel.

His next play was *Every Man Out of his Humor*, and this was followed by the tragedy *Sejanus* during the year 1599, in which Shakespeare is said to have made his farewell appearance on the stage. In 1613 he travelled in Europe as the tutor of the son of Sir Walter Raleigh. Six years later he was appointed poet-laureate, and at that time made a pedestrian tour through Scotland. Attacked with palsy in 1628, he was compelled by poverty to write for the stage, and, though King Charles I. sent him five hundred pounds and raised his salary as poet-laureate, his improvident habits kept him poor to the end of his life. Years after his death some friendly admirer carved upon the rough slab that served as a tombstone for the poet's remains the loving panegyric of Shakespeare, "O RARE BEN JONSON!"

120.—Who was known as the "eccentric Frenchman"?

Marquis de Boissy, who married the Countess Teresa Guiccioli in 1851, and who always referred to her as "My wife, formerly mistress of Lord Byron." The poet first met the countess in 1819, a young lady then but sixteen years of age, who had recently become the third wife of Guiccioli, a wealthy nobleman, then sixty years old, and they fell in love with each other at first sight. The count, it appears, at last objected to the relations existing between Byron and his wife, which resulted in a separation between the countess and himself; but after the death of the author of *Childe Harold*, in

1824, they became reconciled, and she received an annuity from his estate. The French marquis died in 1866. In 1868 she published in French, afterward translated into English, a work entitled *My Recollections of Lord Byron*.

121.—Who was described in Scripture as “monarch of all the earth”?

Cyrus the Great (599-529 B.C.). It is to be noted of this remarkable man that in the year 712 B.C. the prophet Isaiah wrote about him calling him by name, and saying that he should subdue many nations, and would even rebuild the temple at Jerusalem. In Ezra we find the account of the fulfillment of the prophecy.

122.—What caused the invention of the sofa?

It is ascribed to a curious piece of etiquette scrupulously observed in France during the period of the old French monarchy. Whenever the king honored with a visit an invalid whose illness was of such a character as to force him to keep his bed, a second bed was invariably placed in the room close to the sufferer's couch. His majesty reclined on the spare bed, and lay in a recumbent posture during the entire time occupied by the visit. When Louis XIII. visited Cardinal Richelieu during his illness, this cumbrous etiquette was rigidly carried out, as it was likewise when Louis XIV. went to see Marshal Villars after he received his wound.

The second bed, by successive modifications, became eventually the modern sofa.

123.—Where are the most famous pistols on this continent?

In the possession of Innis Hopkins, of St. Louis. They are Aaron Burr's pistols. They were left to Mr. Hopkins by his father, Colonel Brent Hopkins (who died at Henderson, Ky., on the 7th of March, 1883); and they came into his possession through his uncle Captain Samuel Goode Hopkins, of the Forty-second Regiment of United States dragoons, who purchased them from Burr in Washington City in the winter of 1813 or '14, paying five hundred dollars in gold for them. One of those pistols fired the ball that killed Alexander Hamilton at Weehawken, N. J., in 1804. It is identified by a long, deep notch indented on the handle. The pistols were made by H. W. Mortimore, of London, England, gunmaker to his majesty, and were imported by Burr at the close of the Revolutionary War. The barrels are thirteen inches in length and carry an ounce ball. They are flint-locks, the pans for the priming are lined with gold, and the touch-holes are bushed with the same metal. They are hair-triggers, and shoot with great force and accuracy. The locks are pieces of very superior mechanism. The weapons have surely a blood-stained history, as they have been used with fatal effect in eleven duels. Pettis, of Virginia, killed Biddle on Bloody Island, near St. Louis, with them; Edward Towns,

of Virginia, killed a Frenchman near New Orleans; Captain Samuel Goode Hopkins killed a Spanish count near New Madrid, Mo.; Hugh Brent killed a man from Georgia on Diamond Island, below Henderson, Ky.; and they were used several times in Virginia, twice in South Carolina, and more than once in Kentucky, with deadly effect.

124.—What is the origin of St. Valentine's Day?

Many of the children's games of the present, the tumblers and street acrobats, the carnivals and speaking pantomimes of Italy, were all once common in ancient Rome. And so the custom connected with St. Valentine's name may also be traced to a rite in vogue in the same city. In the month of February a feast called *Lupercalia* was held in honor of the rustic god Pan. Then took place a rite no doubt much in favor with the young people at Rome. The names of young females were placed with proper solemnity in a box, and shaken up. The young men then drew these names, and thus each obtained what we should call a valentine. But the leaders of the early Christian Church, wishing to do away with pagan rites and superstitions, made a change in this. The young men, instead of drawing the names of young ladies, drew those of early saints, and each was supposed to imitate the example of the saint whose name he drew.

As the pagan rite took place about the 14th of

February, that day was fixed on for the new ceremony. Then, that being St. Valentine's Day, his name has come down to us linked with the custom; but he is fully acquitted of having aught to do with our present style of celebrating his day. He was a Christian martyr, and suffered death at Rome under the Emperor Claudius (270 A.D.).

**125.—Who discovered America four years before Columbus?**

One writer claims for a sailor of Dieppe, France, the honor of the discovery of America; and if that logic be true which gives to the Northmen the honor, then must France also come before Spain. His statements, at least, have the appearance of truth. It was in 1488 that Cousin was sailing along the coast of Africa, when he encountered a storm. His vessel was borne rapidly out to sea, and when he was able to find his position he was at the mouth of a great river, and saw near at hand a large island. Vessels since that day have been blown thus across the ocean; and Herrera tells us that Columbus had heard of many instances before he sailed in 1492.

**126.—What is the most wonderful bed in the world?**

A rich prince in India has had made for him in Paris a very curious and costly bedstead and mattress, something unlike anything that ever was made before. It is of satinwood, with large plates



of silver stamped with artistic designs, the wood beautifully carved, and it has cost at least \$12,000. One of the strangest things is that the mattress has been fitted up as a musical box, so contrived that when a person lies upon it there will be played the softest and sweetest melodies, that will soothe to sleep and perhaps waft music through one's dreams. At each corner of the bedstead is a statue, one representing Greece, another France, another Spain, and the fourth Italy; and these figures are made to move their eyes, so that the prince as he reclines may look up into "speaking eyes."

#### 127.—Where is there a sea of fire?

A beautiful sight upon the waters of the Indian Ocean is the illumination sometimes made by millions of little fire-fish which cannot be seen themselves. A traveller relates that one evening he was called on deck to "see the ship sailing on a sea of fire." There was no moon visible, and the night had been very dark, but when he went out he found it as bright as day. The ocean was a blaze of light as far as he could see. Opening a Bible printed in small type, he found himself able to see with ease, and read several verses aloud. The mate said that the ship, going at the rate of ten knots an hour, had been sailing for that length of time over this shining sea. A bucket was lowered and hauled up full of the liquid fire. When landed the water was found crowded full of bright sparks. Some of the brightest were picked out and fixed

while wet to the object-glass of a powerful microscope. When examined the next morning, very small, dull-looking specks were found on the glass in place of the little sparks of the night before. They proved to be little bits of fish (dead by this time) doubled up like shrimps, with heads and legs and transparent bodies.

128.—Who is the author of the quotation, "the paradise of fools"?

Shakespeare wrote, "If you should lead her into a fool's paradise, as they say" (*Romeo and Juliet*, act ii. sc. 4). Milton, in *Paradise Lost*, Book III. line 495, has the lines,

"since called

The Paradise of Fools, to few unknown."

Pope also makes use of this expression in the *Dunciad*, Book III. Other authors have used a line of similar meaning.

129.—What was the cause of the "red sunsets" of 1883 and '84?

There were a great many opinions expressed, scientific and otherwise, but it has been since quite clearly and fully proved that the colors were from the ashes which were thrown up in the sky at the time of the breaking out of the Java volcanoes. It may be currents of air that keep this dust from settling down to the earth, or it may be that they are charged with negative electricity, and that the earth repels instead of attracts them.

**130.—Why is the guinea-pig misnamed?**

Because it is a native of South America and not of Africa, and should therefore be called Guiana pig (*Cavia cobaya*). It has no tail and looks something like the hare, but is more fleshy.

**131.—What was the origin of the expression "Tally one"?**

This familiar saying of boys in their games arose from the fact that even as late as 1824 the English Government gave the taxpayer a notched stick for a receipt. It is related that the "tally" was a willow stick about five feet long and roughly squared, each side measuring about an inch. On one side the amount was indicated by notches. A notch one and a half inches wide stood for £1000; one inch, £100; three eighths of an inch, £10; half of such a notch, £1; three tenths of an inch, a shilling; a still smaller one, a penny; and a half-penny by a small round hole. A single cut of a notch stood for half the amount. The stick was then split in half through the notches, and one half of it was given to the person making the payment, the other being kept by the government.

**132.—What is the meaning of the phrase "Sent to Coventry"?**

The good people of Coventry, England, had at one time a great dislike to the military. The cause of this feeling is unknown, but the hatred was carried so far that any woman who was known to

have spoken to a soldier was considered to have lost her character. Of course the soldiers quartered in the city could hope for no acquaintances outside the barracks; and the society enjoyed by the officers was so limited that to send a man to Coventry meant, in the language of the mess-room, to shut him out from all social pleasures. The Coventry folk of the present day do not draw so strict a line between civil and military life, but the phrase remains as a memorial of their exclusiveness in by-gone times.

### 133.—Where is Lake Keys?

This much-unanswered query has had a place in many of the journals of the country. The lake is situated in central Peru, S. A., and the Amazon River is its outlet, possibly the head-waters and original source of that river.

### 134.—What is the history of the lost Pleiad?

It is the romance of the mythological lore invented by the Chaldean shepherds. The Pleiades were seven sisters, as lovely in mind as in body. They were nymphs of Diana's train, and were distinguished for their virtue and mutual affection. Having been pursued one day by the hunter Orion, they prayed to the gods in their distress, and were immediately transferred to the heavens, where they still shine in undimmed splendor—all but poor Merope, who, having married a mortal instead of a

god as her sisters did, became so ashamed that in her humility she left her high position and disappeared from sight, the lost Pleiad.

### 135.—Where is there a “blowing oak”?

One of the natural curiosities of Hernando County, Florida, is an immense live-oak, situated near Brooksville, which seven feet from the ground measures thirty-five and one half feet in circumference; from this height to the top it has but two large limbs spreading out, and at the top measures eighty yards across. On one side of this singular work of nature is a small orifice from which issues a continual stream of cold air, showing some subterranean connection that is unaffected by what is going on above ground. No matter whether the wind blows east, west, north, or south, there is a constant current of cold air from this mysterious cavity.

### 136.—What is the origin of the word “caucus”?

It is an American word, said to be a corruption of *calkers*, the origin of which is given as follows: After the passage of the Stamp Act and during the years immediately preceding the Revolution certain mechanics in Boston came into collision with the British soldiers on two or three occasions, and the result was the formation of a club composed largely of rope-makers and calkers. At their meetings resolutions were passed denouncing the British

Government and its agents. The Tories called these assemblies in derision calkers' meetings, which became corrupted to *caucus*. J. H. Trumbull derives the term from an Algonquin word meaning to speak, encourage, instigate. The singular of the Indian noun is said to have been *kaw-kaw wus*; plural, *kaw-kaw-wus-sough*, "counsellors," which the Virginians changed into *cockarouse*, designating a petty chieftain, and thence came *caucusers*, *caucuses*, and *caucus*.

137.—Where is Santa Anna's cork leg to be seen?

In the Patent Office at Washington, D. C. The leg and its owner parted company at the battle of Cerro Gordo, where the Mexican general was pursued so hard that he had to mount a mule and make his escape, leaving his leg in his carriage. Two companies of the Fourth Illinois regiment were the first troops to reach the carriage, and Private Abe Waldren, of Company G, was the first man to lay hands on it. Sergeant Gill and Privates Sam and Frank Rhodes, of the same company, bought the leg for a small sum, and took it home with them to Pekin, Ill. In 1862, they sent it by General McCook to Washington, and he deposited it in the Patent Office.

138.—What is the most curious dance on record?

That given by Peter the Great, of Russia, whose caprice it was to celebrate at his palace the wedding

of two dwarfs, when, after dinner, the bridegroom, who was only three feet two inches in height, opened the ball with a minuet. The "dance of the torches" performed at Berlin, Germany, on the occasion of the marriage festivities of the Prince of Prussia and his bride, the Princess of Brunswick, was very imposing. In this dance, the musicians having first been placed on the stage of solid silver in the White Hall, the newly-married prince and princess, preceded by six lieutenant-generals and six ministers of state, two by two, all holding white torches, made the tour of the hall, saluting the company as they went; the princess then gave her hand to the king, the prince to the queen, the king to the queen-mother, and the reigning queen to Prince Henry, and the princes and the princesses, following, led up the dance in like professional manner.

139.—Why are the emblems of the United States more enduring than those of France, England, Ireland, and Scotland?

Because

"The Lilies will droop, and their leaves decay;  
The Rose from its stem will sever;  
The Shamrock and Thistle will fade away;  
But the Stars will shine forever."

140.—Who was the mother of King David?

By referring to 1 Chronicles ii. 13-17, it will be seen that Zeruah and Abigail were the daughters

of Jesse and the sisters of David. Then in 2 Samuel xvii. 25 it states that Nahash was the mother of Zeruiah and Abigail, and thus we obtain the answer to the query.

**141.—How do the Chinese determine the future occupation of their children?**

On the first birthday of the male infant he is seated in a large sieve, with money-scales, a foot-measure, a pair of shears, a brass mirror, a pencil, ink and books, an abacus, and similar articles ranged in a circle around him. The article which he handles first is a sure prophecy of the direction in which his future activities will lie. A similar superstition to the limited extent of book, money, and a bottle is in vogue in some parts of our country, notably in western Pennsylvania.

**142.—Where was Mexicana?**

North America was designated by this name in an English almanac published in 1747, and South America, Peruviana. The provinces of Mexicana were New Spain, Florida, New Albany, New England, New France or Canada. The chief islands were Newfoundland and California.

**143.—What became of the "lost regiment"?**

Sir Samuel Baker, the African explorer and sportsman, relates, in one of his interesting volumes, a story which painfully illustrates the dangers of



travelling in some parts of the *Dark Continent*. Many years ago, when the Egyptians first became masters of Nubia, one of their regiments in passing across a wide desert saw in the distance a mirage exactly like a beautiful lake. All were then upon short allowance of water, and under the burning sun their thirst was extreme. A guide had been sent with the regiment, and the soldiers at once demanded that he should lead them to this lake. He refused, and told them they were deceived; that the supposed lake was all unreal; but that if they would press on, water awaited them at the journey's end. The soldiers refused to believe him; angry words led to blows, and in their madness they killed the man upon whose guidance their safety depended. Leaving him lying in his blood, the whole regiment rushed madly towards the enticing waters. Faint and weary, they plunged deeper and deeper into the desert, every moment getting farther from the track. Yet still the waters of the lake glittered before them—always before, yet never one step nearer their burning lips. At last, when many had already fallen from exhaustion, the picture vanished. The lake was gone; only the burning sands remained around them on every side. They sought to retrace their steps, but all in vain. The path was lost, the guide murdered. Not one man of that party escaped. Their bodies were afterward found, parched and withered, by the Arabs sent out upon the search.

**144.—What is the tradition in relation to the vine?**

It is as follows: "When Adam planted the first vine, and left it, Satan approached it, and said: 'Lovely plant! I will cherish thee;' and thereupon taking three animals, a lamb, a lion, and a hog, he slew them at the foot of the tree, and their blood has been imbibed by the fruit to this day. Thus, if you take one goblet of wine, you are cheered by its influence, yet are mild and docile as the lamb; if you take two goblets, you become furious, and rave and bellow like a lion; if you drink of the third goblet, your reason sinks, and, like the hog, you wallow in the mire."

**145.—How did a dog earn a pension?**

A dog in New Mexico has earned one in this way: Returning of an evening with his sheep to the fold, he discovered that his master was not stirring about, but remained inside the hut and kept very quiet. The next evening it was the same. The dog when he "penned up" the sheep repaired to the shanty, smelled through the crack in the door his master's presence, but the man did not move. The dog scratched, barked, and even howled, but no response came from within. The dog, true to his appointed duty, went out with the sheep on the third day, and cared for them while they cropped the herbage on the hillsides. But he was getting hungry, and that night when he drove the flock into their pen, the last one to attempt to get in be-

came the victim of his appetite. This method of providing for his own wants became a part of the faithful dog's daily duty. Every evening the last sheep to try to enter the fold was seized by him and served for supper, and for breakfast and dinner the following day. The ranch to which the dog belonged was in a solitary part of the Territory and out of the track of travel or visitation. For two years from the time of his master's death—as ascertained by data left by the latter—the faithful dog tended the flock committed to his charge, and had fresh mutton for his supper every night. The flock was not decimated by his steady drain upon its resources. On the contrary, it increased in numbers, and when, at the end of two years from the time of the death of the proprietor, the ranch was visited, and the remains of the owner were found, the dog was still at his post of duty, zealously guarding his flock, and driving them to the best pastures every day, and to the fold at night, before which he slept to keep the wild sheep-eaters of the plains at a civil distance. Such fidelity excited admiration wherever the story was told, and the legislators of the Territory, in a fit of generosity and enthusiasm, at their session five years ago (1879) granted a pension for life to that dog, to be paid from the State treasury, as a reward for his fidelity, and no doubt as an encouragement to all good shepherd-dogs in that Territory to be good dogs and faithful.

**146.—What is the “acclinic line”?**

An imaginary line on the earth's surface between the tropics where the compass-needle has no inclination ; that is, where the needle is horizontal. This line is also called the magnetic equator, being about ninety degrees distant from the magnetic poles. It is variable and runs quite irregularly. At present it intersects the geographical equator near the western coast of Africa, and some one hundred and sixty degrees east of that point in the Pacific Ocean. In the Western Hemisphere it is south, and in the Eastern north, of the equator.

**147.—What is the origin of the word Hoosier?**

Aside from the explanation that it is a corruption of the Western slang word “husher,” meaning a “bully,” its origin is considered settled by an incident related by Dr. Aaron Wood, the oldest Methodist clergyman in Indiana, which is as follows: “A learned foreigner by the name of Leminouski, formerly a soldier under Napoleon, during the years intervening between 1823 and 1830, lectured extensively on the wars of Europe to the pioneers of the State. In his discourses the valor of the hussars was conspicuous, but his accent was not English, and he pronounced that body *hoosiers*. During the excavation of the canal at the falls of the Ohio, through Kentucky, a young man from Washington County, Ind., on the grounds one day fought and whipped three Kentuckians. Highly elated at the

conclusion, amid a torrent of backwoods profanity he exclaimed, "I'm a hoosier!" from Leminouski's pronunciation of *hussar*. From that day to the present the term has been applied to all citizens of Indiana.

148. — When was February the last month of the year?

Until the year 452 B.C. During the reign of Numa, two months, January and February, were added to the ten already in use. January was named as the first month of the year, and February as the last. This latter word, meaning purity, is derived from the Latin verb *februare*, to purify. Some writers are of the opinion that the name was chosen in honor of the Roman festival *Februa*, a feast of purification, celebrated in the latter part of the new month.

149.—How did the slang expression "I'll cook your goose for you" originate?

From an old English book of "curious matter" is gleaned the following: King Eric, of Sweden, coming with a few troops to a certain town, the inhabitants, in contemptuous defiance, hung out a goose for him to attack. But Eric was bent on business, discovering which the citizens sent heralds to ask what he wanted. "To cook your goose for you," was the witty response.

**150. — What American admiral was drowned?**

John T. Shubrick, Rear-Admiral, who was born in South Carolina in 1778. He entered the navy in 1806; served in the *Chesapeake*, as a subordinate officer, in her fight with the *Leopard* in 1807. He was lieutenant on the *Constitution* when she captured the *Guerriere* in 1812, on the *Hornet* when she fought the *Peacock* in 1813, and also on the *President* when she was captured by a British squadron in 1815. While in command of the *Guerriere* he participated in the naval operations against Algiers in 1815, and was drowned in that year while conveying the Tripolitan treaty to the United States.

**151.—Who was known as “the Just Sultan”?**

Louis Charles Anthony Desaix de Veigoux, a celebrated French general of noble descent. He was born at Auvergne in 1768; became lieutenant in the army at fifteen; defended Fort Kehl in 1796, commanding a division in the Army of the Rhine. In Egypt, where he had accompanied Bonaparte, he was called by this surname. He fell, mortally wounded, in the battle of Marengo, June 14, 1800, just as he had aided in winning a victory over the Austrians.

**152.—What two noted heroes—enemies in life, but brothers in death—are buried at Portland, Me.?**

On September 5th, 1813, the American sloop-of-

war *Enterprise*, commanded by Lieutenant William Burroughs, encountered the British brig *Boxer*, commanded by Lieutenant Blyth, off Portland, and, after a sharp engagement, captured the latter. Blyth was killed, and Burroughs was mortally wounded. They were buried side by side at Portland.

153. — What general was killed by the falling of a tree?

Francis Barber, an American adjutant-general, who was born at Princeton, N. J., in 1751. He was engaged in the battles of Trenton, Princeton, Brandywine, Germantown, and Monmouth; served against the Indians in 1779, and was wounded at Newton; was also in the battle of Springfield, and present at the surrender of Cornwallis. Died from injuries received from a falling tree in 1783.

154. — Who were the "worshippers of fire"?

While this name has been applied to the Aztecs and the Natchez Indians, they were originally the *Magi*, the priestly caste of the ancient Persians. It was formerly held that they were a Median race, but, according to Rawlinson and other recent writers, Magism was the old Scythic religion which maintained itself in Persia after the Aryan conquest. The wisdom of the Magi caused a secret knowledge of religion and philosophy to be ascribed to them.

**155.—What royal gift did Henry VIII. receive?**

The most splendid present ever made by a subject to his sovereign was probably that of Hampton Court Palace, which Cardinal Wolsey built and presented to the English monarch in 1525. Jane Seymour died there, and in it her son, afterward Edward VI., was born.

**156.—How did Valley Forge obtain its name?**

From the most prosaic of reasons, according to the chronicler. "The forge up the valley, from which the latter has gained a name that will be famous for all time, was a noted gathering-place for the young men and farmers of the vicinity. Each had to wait his turn, for in those days every horse-shoe and nail had to be beaten out by many heavy and laborious strokes of the hammer, by strength and sinews and brawn, and at a large expenditure of time, patience, and muscle. Doors, windows, and floors were secured with wrought nails at an enormous expense; the coulter of the plough was sharpened once a year, when the strength and dexterity of the smith and his helper were taxed to the utmost; while the wooden mould-board was always in a shattered condition, owing to the rude shocks it received in colliding with stones and blazed stumps."

**157.—Who were the "old" scholars?**

Old age has often applied itself to studies which



youth has disregarded or disliked. Cato at eighty years of age began to learn Greek. Plutarch began Latin when almost as old. Koonhert began both of these languages at forty, and Ogilby when ten years older knew little of them. He afterward published translations of Homer and Virgil. Dr. Johnson was seventy-two when he completed his *Lives of the Poets*. In his later years he began to learn Low Dutch in order to test his powers. Chaucer was sixty-one when his *Canterbury Tales* were finished. The work of Theophrastus on the characters of men was begun at the extreme age of ninety. To conclude with a remarkable instance, one Ludovico Monaldesco is said to have written the memoir of his own times at the age of one hundred and fifteen.

158.—When was “the year without a summer”?

In 1816. Old New England farmers formerly referred to the year as “eighteen hundred and starved to death.” January was mild, as was also February, with the exception of a few days. The greater part of March was cold and boisterous. April opened warm, but grew colder as it advanced, ending with snow and ice and winter cold. Buds and flowers were frozen in May, ice formed half an inch thick, and corn was killed. Frost, ice, and snow were common in June. Almost every green thing was killed, and fruit was nearly all destroyed. Snow fell to the depth of three inches in

New York and Massachusetts, and ten inches in Maine. July was accompanied with frost and ice. On the fifth of this month ice was formed of the thickness of window-glass in New York, New England, and parts of Pennsylvania, and corn was nearly all destroyed in certain sections. In August ice formed half an inch thick. Corn was so frozen that a great deal was cut down and dried for fodder. Very little ripened in New England and the Middle States. Farmers were obliged to pay four and five dollars a bushel for corn of 1815 for seed at the next spring's planting. The first two weeks of September were mild; the remainder of the month was cold, with frost, and ice formed a quarter of an inch thick. October was more than usually cold, with frost and ice. November was cold and blustering, with snow enough for good sleighing. December was quite mild and comfortable.

159.—What is the origin of "The Arabian Nights' Entertainments"?

This collection of stories, commonly spoken of as the *Arabian Nights*, was first brought to the notice of Europeans by a French Oriental scholar named Antony Gallard. Their publication by him in twelve volumes was completed in the year 1717. Many persons at that time looked upon him as the author of the stories rather than as their translator, and so denounced them as forgeries. But their Eastern origin has long been placed beyond all doubt. Manuscript copies of the stories in

Arabic have been found, and four Arabic versions have been published. What the real origin of the book or stories was it is impossible to say. Some believe that the original tales were few in number, and were written in Syria, but that subsequently others were added from other countries—perhaps Egypt. Whatever their origin, the stories have always been held in great esteem by the public, and will no doubt long retain their hold on the minds of those who like the fancies of a vivid imagination.

**160.—What noted soldier was the father of twenty-four children?**

Abdel Kader, an Arabian emir, who was born in Algeria, near Mascara, in 1806 or 1807. He fought against the French and Moors in Algeria and Morocco, and was a learned author as well as a warrior. He died in 1873.

**161.—What is it to be worth a Jew's eye?**

It is a phrase for being of great value. Some think it arose from the fine black eyes which the Jews so often have. But it is more likely that the words refer to the time when the rich Jews were tortured and threatened in every way to get money from them. Sometimes their teeth were drawn for this purpose. The threat of putting out an eye seems to have been more powerful.

162.—What is the origin of the Union Jack ?

At the close of Elizabeth's reign, the flag of England was the banner of St. George; viz., white with a red cross. When James I. ascended the throne, the banner of Scotland (blue with a white diagonal cross) was incorporated with it. This flag was called the Union Jack—Jack, no doubt, being a corruption of Jacques or James. At the union with Ireland, in January, 1801, the banner of St. Patrick, white with a red diagonal cross, was added to the flag, and formed the present banner bearing that name.

163.—When was the term "Emerald Isle" first applied to Ireland ?

It was first used by Dr. William Drennan (1754–1820), the author of *Erin*, *Glendalloch*, and other poems, in the following stanzas from *Erin* :

" When Erin first rose from the dark swelling flood,  
God blessed the green island; he saw it was good.  
The Emerald of Europe, it sparkled, it shone  
In the ring of this world the most precious stone.

" Arm of Erin, prove strong, but be gentle as brave  
And, uplifted to strike, still be ready to save:  
Nor one feeling of vengeance presume to defile  
The cause or the men of the Emerald Isle."

164.—What is the meaning of the word "man" ?

It signifies "thinker." In Sanscrit "man" is to

*think*. Our English verb *mean* and nouns *mind* and *mania* (from the Greek) are from the same root.

165.—What is meant by “carrying coals to Newcastle”?

It is a cant phrase used to denote that the action to which it is applied, is useless, since Newcastle (England) is a great coal-mart. The French express the same idea by “to carry water to the river.”

166.—What queen starved herself to death?

Zenobia, Queen of Palmyra, who was taken prisoner by Aurelian after he had destroyed her splendid capital; taking her and her children to grace his triumph at Rome, where amid the gorgeous display of treasure and the long train of captives every eye sought for “the beautiful and majestic figure of the Syrian queen, who walked in the procession before her own sumptuous chariot, attired in her diadem and royal robes blazing with jewels, her eyes fixed on the ground, and her delicate form drooping under the weight of her golden fetters, which were so heavy that two slaves were obliged to assist in supporting them on either side.” Of her subsequent fate tradition states that, refusing to survive her own and her country’s disgrace, she starved herself to death. The daughter of an Arab chief, Amron, the son of Dharb, she is said to have been exceedingly beautiful, with Oriental eyes,

teeth like pearls, and possessing a voice of wondrous sweetness. Nothing is known of her early years till, as a very young widow, she was married a second time to Odenathus, a prince of great valor and chief of several Arab tribes near Palmyra. Her husband was assassinated, while out hunting, by his nephew Moronius; she avenged her husband's murder, and from that time her name shone alone.

167.—What is the meaning of the expression “at the Greek kalends”?

It was employed by the ancients in reference to a thing that could never take place. The Greeks, in their divisions of the months, had no *kalends*, which were used by the Romans only. The Roman saying was, “*Ad calendas Græcas.*” It is said that the Emperor Augustus frequently used the phrase, which afterward became a proverb.

168.—How long do fishes live?

“There is, I believe, authentic evidence to show that carp have attained an age of two hundred years. There is a tradition that, within the last fifty years, a pike was living in Russia whose age dated back to the fifteenth century. The fish is said to have been eighteen feet long. This, however, is not considered very reliable. But there is nothing to prevent a fish from living almost indefinitely, as it has no period of maturity, but grows with each year of life. In species like mammals and birds, where there is a limit, a definite term of years is the rule.”

(Spencer W. Baird.) There are some goldfish in the aquariums of the U. S. Botanical Garden that are fifty years old. A goldfish dealer in Baltimore has some goldfish that he has kept in his aquarium for thirty years.

**169.—How did the term “boycotting” originate?**

Captain Boycott was the agent of an estate in Ireland, and the tenants having become dissatisfied with his methods of managing the estate, asked the landlord to remove him. This he declined to do, and the tenants and their friends refused to work for Boycott, and made an agreement among themselves that none of them, their friends or relatives should assist or work under him during harvest. His crops were thus endangered; but assistance arriving from Ulster, the harvest was gathered under the protection of troops. The tenantry then decided to still further extend their system of tabooing by including all persons who had any dealings with Boycott. All such were not only to be ignored and treated as total strangers, but no one was to sell to them or buy of them.

**170.—Where is the largest clock in the world?**

In the English House of Parliament. The four dials of this clock are 32 feet in diameter. Every half-minute the point of the minute-hand moves nearly seven inches. The clock will go eight and

a half days, but will only strike for seven and a half, thus indicating any neglect in winding it. The mere "winding up" of the striking apparatus takes two hours. The pendulum is fifteen feet long; the wheels are of cast-iron; the hour-bell is eight feet high and nine feet in diameter, weighing nearly fifteen tons, and the hammer alone weighs more than four hundred pounds. This clock strikes the quarter-hours, and by its strokes the short-hand reporters regulate their labors. At every stroke a new reporter takes the place of the old one, while the first one retires to write out the notes that he has taken during the previous fifteen minutes.

**171.—Who is the "Old Lady of Thread-needle Street"?**

This is a slang phrase designating the Bank of England, which was incorporated in 1649. It covers five acres of ground and employs nine hundred clerks. There are no windows on the streets. Light is admitted through open courts; no mob can take the bank, therefore, without cannon to batter the inner walls. The clock in the centre of the bank has fifty dials; and in different places cisterns have been sunk in the court, and an engine and trained firemen are always in readiness in case of fire. The indestructible nature of its bank-notes is well known.

**172.—What was the wonderful work of Mark Scalliot?**

Probably the smallest lock and key ever made.



He was a London blacksmith, and this piece of mechanism (1578) was of iron, steel, and brass, all of which, with a pipe-key to it, weighed but one grain of gold. He also made a chain of gold, consisting of forty-three links, and having fastened the chain to the lock and key, he put the chain around the neck of a flea. The flea could hop around with ease in spite of the weight. The lock, key, chain and animal, all in a lump, weighed only one grain and a half.

173.—When was the harp placed on the arms of Ireland?

In ancient times Ireland had a coinage of her own, nullified by an Act of Parliament about the year 1825, when the coin of England and the Emerald Isle was assimilated. On the Irish coin the reverse contained the bust of the reigning sovereign, and on the obverse was a harp, surmounted by a crown, with the word "Hibernia" over it. At all times Ireland has been distinguished for the number and excellence of her bards and minstrels, vocal and instrumental performers. The harp was the instrument on which they played, and so of course was considered the national instrument. When Ireland was an independent nation—that is, up to the year 1172—her banner bore a rising sun. Hence its poetical title, "The Sunburst." It was Henry VIII. who is said to have changed the arms of Ireland by placing three harps on her heraldic shield. They are to be found on the Irish coins of Edward IV.,

Richard III., and Henry VII., and were really the armorial bearings of that country from the reign of Richard II., which began in 1377, down to that of Henry VIII., which closed in 1547. The harp was surmounted by a crown, to show that Ireland, subject to England, had been a monarchy.

**174.—What has become of the Great Canal of China?**

It is likely to share the fate of the Great Wall. This waterway was constructed by Kublar Khan and his successors of the Kuen race, and is six hundred miles in length. There are ten thousand flat-bottomed boats on this canal, and these are used in the transportation of grain. It is said that the canal is an enormous "white elephant," as it costs an immense amount every year for repairs, the appropriations there, as elsewhere, not being entirely devoted to the purpose for which they are meant. Junks are delayed every month while channels are being dug for their passage. In 1882, for the first time since the construction of the canal, the grain from Gankin, with the consent of the government, was forwarded by sea; and this fact has impelled the Pekin authorities to consider the expediency of abandoning the canal as a commercial highway.

**175.—Where is the "Devil's Bridge"?**

In Wales. Similar to the natural bridge in the valley of Icononzo, South America, it has two

arches, the one above the other. A good carriage-road runs on the upper arch. This bridge was erected by some ingenious architect in the twelfth century, and the expense of its erection was defrayed by the good monks of Star-flower Abbey.

**176.—What is the bottle-tree?**

The name of a curious tree that grows in Africa. It is all trunk, with only some straggling branches and a few leaves. The bottle-tree grows to a very great size, so that a man or even a horse at the foot of one looks very small. It is a very strange tree, and is of little use. No birds gather on its branches to cheer the traveller with their song; no delicious fruit hangs down to cool and refresh him in that hot climate. There is nothing for a horse to nibble. It is full of gum, and that is all that can be said of it.

**177.—Where are the ruins of the Tower of Babel?**

Within the walls of the city of Babylon, Asia Minor, lies a huge mound of earth one hundred and ninety-eight feet high, upon the summit of which is a solid pile of brick, broken and irregular, rent by a large fissure extending through one third of its height, and perforated by small holes. This is the remains of the Tower of Babel. The fire-burnt bricks of which it is built are covered with inscriptions, and the cement that holds them together—apparently a lime mortar—is so excellent that it is

impossible to extract one whole. On other parts of the mound or hill are immense fragments of brick-work of no determined figure, but tumbled together in solid, vitrified masses, as though they had undergone the action of intense fire or been blown up with gunpowder.

**178.—Who finished the Tower of Babel?**

Nebuchadnezzar completed it in magnificent style, when he reigned in Babylon. He formed it into a prodigious building, consisting of eight towers, rising one above the other, to the height of six hundred and sixty feet, with an outside winding staircase to the summit, upon which was a chapel. All the sacred utensils of this chapel were upon a most magnificent scale, rivalling in splendor the other glories of Babylon. The golden image within, forty feet high, was valued at seventeen and a half millions of dollars.

**179.—What is the oldest reigning dynasty in the world?**

That of Japan. Mutsu Hito I., the one hundred and twenty-third emperor of Japan, born 1850, succeeded to the throne on February 13, 1867, and was crowned at his birthplace, Kioto, on October 12, 1868. This monarch is descended in an unbroken line from Jimmu Tenno, whose reign began April 7, 660 B.C. The Japanese say that he came down in a boat from the skies.

**180.—How does Palm-Sunday derive its name?**

The Sunday before Easter is called Palm-Sunday, from the blessing of palm-branches on that day, to commemorate the entrance of our Saviour into Jerusalem, surrounded by the people strewing their garments and palm-branches before Him. In northern latitudes there are no palm-trees to be found, except in the hot-houses of the wealthy. To supply their place, other trees are taken. In some countries hemlock is used; in Germany, children gather the branches of the willow with the fuzzy little catkins, and hawk them about the streets, finding a ready sale.

**181.—Who was known as “the Great Captain”?**

Hernandez A. Gonsalvo of Cordova, a celebrated warrior, born at Montillo, Spain, in 1453. He entered the army at the age of fifteen; distinguished himself in wars against the Moors, Portuguese, Turks, and French; was Viceroy of Naples, which kingdom he had conquered; died in Granada, Spain, in 1515.

**182.—Where is the “queerest” tomb in the United States?**

In the ancient burying-ground at East Roxford, Mass., which is visited by many people in the course of a year. This is the sepulchre of General Solomon Low, who was buried in 1861, and who

died at the age of seventy-nine years. It was designed by himself, and has on either side of the entrance two handsome white-marble gravestones, erected to the memory of his three wives, who are also interred there. On each stone are carved pictures of his wives. The first two are represented with their children around them and infants in their arms. They are sitting in antique chairs with straight backs. The two wives represented on the second stone are sitting in modern rocking chairs beside a centre-table, on which are books. The fourth wife is still living. When the adjacent ground was used for a muster-field the tomb was always opened for one day, and the general's regimentals were exhibited there, in accordance with the directions in the will.

183.—Why did the Scotch refuse formerly to eat the potato?

Because potatoes were not mentioned in the Bible. The Irish people had learned by degrees to like them and then to cultivate them, and the taste had spread to Lancashire. In 1718 a writer describes them as likely to prove excellent food for pigs! At last a peasant in Stirlingshire, somehow or other, felt moved to give the despised potato a trial. He obtained a few roots, planted them, and when the crop came sold some to his neighbors. They relished them and came for more. In a few years this potato-field had brought him two hundred pounds—a large sum in those days.

184.—Who was master of twenty-eight languages?

It is not very difficult to count up a certain number of famous men who have made themselves masters of five, six, or even seven languages; but all these are obscured by Sir William Jones, whose conquests in this field amounted to no less than twenty-eight. Of eight of these languages he had a thorough critical knowledge. These were English, Greek, Latin, French, Italian, Sanscrit, Arabic, and Persian. In reading eight other languages it was but rarely that he had to open the dictionary. These were Hebrew, Runic, German, Spanish, Portuguese, Turkish, Hindostanee, and Bengalee. Finally, he had a good acquaintance with twelve other tongues, viz., Welsh, Swedish, Dutch, Chinese, Tibetan, Pali, Phalavi, Devi, Russian, Coptic, Ethiopic, and Syriac. With how many more languages he would have acquainted himself had he lived longer it is impossible to say. He died at the age of forty-eight.

Cardinal Guiseppe Mezzofanti was without doubt the greatest master of languages who ever lived. He was born in Bologna in the year 1774, and his father, a carpenter, destined him for the same calling. He worked at a bench within hearing of the recitations of some schoolboys in Greek and Latin, and without knowing the Greek alphabet, or even looking into a Greek or Latin book, he picked up by ear a considerable knowledge of both languages; thus discovering to himself and others his wonder-

ful aptitude for linguistic studies, and attracting the notice of a priest, who arranged for his education. In college he mastered Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Spanish, French, Swedish, German, Arabic, and Coptic, and at the age of twenty-three was appointed professor of Arabic in the university at Bologna.

During the Napoleonic wars he was a constant visitor at the hospitals, whither he went mainly for the purpose of learning the various languages spoken by the prisoners there, among whom he found Russians, Bohemians, Wallachs, Servians, Hungarians, Croats, and Poles, and from them he learned to speak fluently all their languages.

Later in life he went to Rome, first as the keeper of the Library of the Vatican, and afterward as a cardinal. Here he continued his linguistic studies, mastering Sanscrit, Persian, Georgian, Welsh, Irish, Lappish, Armenian, Chinese, and a number of other tongues ; and when he died, in 1849, he could speak correctly and fluently one hundred and fourteen different languages. The most astonishing part of the matter, however, was, that he not only spoke the languages correctly, but knew perfectly their peculiar idioms, and was even familiar with the local dialectic variations in each. Lord Byron, astonished at his perfect mastery of good English, tested him with English slang, and found the Italian priest more than a match for himself even in that, whereupon he pronounced him "a monster of languages, a Briareus of parts of speech, and a



walking polyglot." Another of his admirers thought that if he had been at Babel he might have acted as interpreter for the confused builders without any kind of difficulty.

Mezzofanti's hitherto unique position among linguists, says the *Moscow Gazette*, is threatened by a young Russian officer, who at the age of twenty-six years has mastered the French, German, English, Danish, Swedish, Italian, Polish, Finnish, Serbian, Czech, Japanese, Chinese, and Malay languages. Besides these he is acquainted with three different Japanese, one South African, and two Chinese dialects, and is at present occupied with the study of Hebrew. M. Pakovitch has, with the exception of French, English, and German, acquired the knowledge of these languages without any help, after his own method.

### 185.—Where is Torquay?

In Devonshire, on the northern shore of Torbay, a beautiful bay formed by the waters of the English Channel, lies the town of Torquay. This lovely spot is surrounded by hills, and is so warm and sheltered, that invalids often go there when they cannot live in a colder climate. The bay itself is large enough to shelter a navy, and the Channel fleet is sometimes seen there. There are some caves not far from the town, the largest of which is called Kent's Hole, and on the floor of this great gloomy cavern have been found quantities of fossils and bones which are known to have belonged

to hyenas, wolves, elephants, rhinoceri, bears, lions, and tigers. Knives and spear-heads have also been found, which probably were fashioned by the barbarous people who made their homes in those desolate caves, and hunted the wild beasts centuries ago. At the beginning of the present century, Torquay was only a village, the houses being principally huts inhabited chiefly by fishermen. To-day, it is a city with handsome crescents and charming villas on its wooded slopes, and a population of about twenty thousand.

### 186.—What was the Dead Sea fruit?

Tom Moore (1779-1852), in *The Fire-Worshippers*, sings:

“With hopes that but allure to fly,  
With joys that vanish while he sips,  
Like Dead Sea fruits, that tempt the eye,  
But turn to ashes on the lips.”

The historian Josephus and other writers of that period tell us of a curious kind of fruit said to grow upon trees among the ashes of the ruined cities around the Dead Sea. They describe it as like a beautiful apple in appearance; but, on being taken into the hand or placed to the lips, it fell away to dust and ashes. Milton mentions it in *Paradise Lost*, Book X. Modern science discards the theory of its being an apple, and states that it was probably a kind of gall.

**187.—Where is the Fountain of Egeria?**

This is a name given to a vaulted chamber of brickwork in the valley of the *Almo*, about a mile from Rome. It derives its name from the belief that it is the site of the grove and sacred fountain where *Numa* held his nightly meetings with the nymph *Egeria*. Modern writers have, however, determined that the spot which has so long been regarded as the Grotto of *Egeria* is not the one which *Numa* visited, and have placed the fountain and valley within the present walls of the city, near where the *Via Appia* crosses the *Almo*, not far from the ancient *Porta Capena*. *Byron*, *Sotheby*, *Macaulay*, and others have all made reference to this poetical fable. *Hilliard* states: "The legend is one of the most genuine flowers of poetry that ever started from the hard rock of the Roman mind. *Numa* was an ante-historical king of Rome. He reigned thirty-nine years, and in all that time, as *Livy* relates, there were no wars, famines, or plagues. At his death, *Egeria*, who had been his counsellor, guide, and friend through life, melted away in tears, and was changed into a fountain.

**188.—Where is John O'Groat's House?**

It is the name used to designate an ancient building situated on *Duncansby Head*, remarkable for being the most northerly point in Great Britain. Different accounts are given, one being that he and his brothers, of whom there were seven, originally

came from Holland about 1489. The house was octagonal in shape, being one room with eight doors, and eight windows, to admit the eight members of the family, the heads of eight different branches of it, to prevent their quarrels for precedence at table, which on a previous occasion had nearly proved fatal. Each one entered at his own door, and took his place at the octagonal table, of which naturally there was no chief place or head.

**189.—What is the story of the poet Shelley and the bank-note?**

In his boyhood he was very fond of sailing mimic boats. Years afterward, when he was no longer a youth, he was walking one day through a park in London, and came to a large pond. The remembrances of his favorite sport rushed back strongly upon him, and he searched his pockets for a piece of paper wherewith to construct a sail. Finding none, he took from his purse a fifty-pound bank-note, and fastened it to the tiny mast of a boat which he built from a chip, and then carefully launched the precious craft upon the waters of the pond.

It was a long and perilous voyage across, but wind and wave were propitious, and after half an hour of delightful anxiety, the poet had the satisfaction of seeing his frail bark land safely with his wealth.

190.—How did Elyria, Ohio, derive its name?

The first settler in that town and township, Lorrain County, was Mr. Herman Ely, from West Springfield, Mass., who came there in March, 1817. He brought with him some hired men to make improvements on his land, a large tract of which he had purchased at this place and vicinity. The village was soon laid out, and during the succeeding year Mr. Ely moved into his residence—the first frame-house erected. The name was formed from the surname of Mr. Ely and the last syllable of the given name of his wife, *Ma-ria*.

191.—What was a noted example of Bonaparte's generosity?

Napoleon's conduct toward the Prince of Hatzfield was generous in the extreme. The Prince of Hohenlohe, or Holach, by marching and counter-marching, was enabled to keep the field with his troops after the battle of Jena for some days subsequent to Bonaparte's entrance into Berlin. Previous, however, to his surrender, the Prince of Hatzfield, who was permitted to reside in the city under the immediate protection of the Emperor, was detected in carrying on a secret correspondence with the fugitive commander. A letter was intercepted, by which the Prince treacherously intended to convey intelligence to Hohenlohe of the movements of the French army.

Hatzfield, in consequence of this discovery, was

immediately arrested and placed in confinement. The Princess, his consort, ignorant of the Prince's breach of confidence, sought an interview with Napoleon, which was readily granted. Robed, as she thought, with the mantle of innocence, the wife made a powerful appeal to his feelings in behalf of her husband.

The Emperor listened to her very quietly, and then handed to her the Prince's letter. Confounded at such evidence, the astonished Princess fell on her knees, but without daring to urge her suit further. Bonaparte, softened by her manner, good-humoredly raised her from the ground, saying, "Put the paper in the fire, madam: there will then remain no proof."

**192. — What is the origin of the name Columbiana?**

Columbiana County, Ohio, was formed from Jefferson and Washington, March 25, 1803. Kilbourn, in his *Gazetteer*, states: "Columbiana is a fancy name, taken from the names Columbus and Anna. An anecdote is told pending its adoption in the legislature, that a member jocularly moved that the name Maria should be added thereto, so as to have it read Columbiana-maria."

**193.—Where was the birthplace of Tecumseh?**

At the old Indian town of Piqua, the ancient Piqua of the Shawnees, situated on the north side

of Mad River, about five miles west of Springfield, Ohio, occupying the site on which a small town called West Boston has since been built. This town was sacked and burned on the 8th of August, 1780, by an army of one thousand men from Kentucky, commanded by General George Rogers Clarke. All the improvements of the Indians, including their well-tilled fields of more than two hundred acres of corn and vegetables, then growing in the inclosure, were laid waste and destroyed. The town was never rebuilt. Its inhabitants built a second Piqua on the banks of the Great Miami River.

**194. — What animal has two sets of eyes?**

A very large firefly, called the Lantern Fly, that inhabits Surinam, a part of Guiana, South America. It is a strange-looking insect, and in front of its eyes it has a queer fiddle-shaped shell. Of its two sets of eyes, one is very large and has many lenses, so as to catch the light from all possible directions. It does not often give light, but when it does, it is of startling brilliancy.

**195.—Who was Puckeshinwa?**

The father of Tecumseh, and a member of the Kiscopoke tribe. Methoataske, his wife, belonged to the Turtle tribe of the Shawanoe Nation: they removed from Florida to Ohio about the middle of the last century. The father rose to the rank of a

chief, and fell at the battle of Point Pleasant, in 1774. After his death his wife returned to the South, where she died, at an advanced age.

196.—Where was the battle of Captina fought?

Captina Creek is a stream of considerable size entering the Ohio River at the southeast angle of Belmont County, Ohio. On its banks in May, 1794, a sanguinary contest took place between the Indians and whites known as "*the battle of Captina.*" The red men were commanded by the Shawnee chief Charley Wilkey, who afterward told McDonald the biographer that he lost most of his men.

197.—To what does Plutarch's story of the Theban magistrate bear a resemblance?

To that of General Rahl, commander of the Hessians at Trenton, Christmas Day, 1776. While reclining amidst a merry party, despatches were handed to him which gave news of a plot against his life. "Business to-morrow!" he cried, thrusting the packet out of sight. One of the company urged him to open it, but he refused. He never lived to open that packet on the following day. The plot was ripe for action, and he fell by it, while the news sent to warn him lay neglected and unread.



198. — Who was "the Pocahontas of Ohio"?

The first settlement in the celebrated Western Reserve of Ohio was made at the mouth of Conneaut Creek, Ashtabula County, on July 4, 1796. The whole party consisted of fifty-two persons, of whom two were females (Mrs. Stiles and Mrs. Gunn, and a child). The first permanent settlement in the Indian village of Conneaut was in 1799. Two young men taken at the defeat of St. Clair were said to have been prisoners for a considerable time among the Indians here. On their arrival at Conneaut they were made to run the gauntlet, and received the orthodox number of blows and kicks usual on such occasions. In solemn council it was resolved that the life of Fitz Gibbon should be saved, but the other, whose name is not recollected, was condemned to be burned. He was bound to a tree, a large quantity of hickory bark tied into fagots and piled around him. But from the horrors of the most painful of deaths he was saved by the interposition of a young squaw belonging to the tribe, the Massauga. Touched by sympathy, she interceded in his behalf, and by her expostulations, backed by several packages of fur and a small sum of money, succeeded in effecting his deliverance; an act in the lowly Indian maid which entitles her name to be honorably recorded with that of Pocahontas among the good and virtuous of every age.

199.—What is the meaning of Wapakonetta?

This town is in Allen County, Ohio, ten miles from St. Mary's and twelve from Lima, situated on the Auglaize River. Colonel John Johnson states: "*Wa-pagh-ko-netta* : this is the true Indian orthography. It was named after an Indian chief long since dead, but who survived years after my intercourse commenced with the Shawanoese. The chief was somewhat *club-footed*, and the word has reference, I think, to that circumstance, although its full import I never could discover." After the Shawnees were driven from Piqua they settled a town here, and by the treaty at the Maumee rapids, in 1817, they were given a reservation of ten miles square in the county, increased by subsequent treaties.

200.—What is a "dah runner"?

The letter-carrier of India. By this means letters are conveyed to parts of that country which are far away from any line of rail. These men each run for six miles at a stretch, until they reach a small hut, where they can rest, and another man is in readiness to relieve them of their burden, and continue the journey for another six miles, and so on, until the letters have been taken to their place of destination. The word "*dâh*" means "post" in Hindostanee, and is pronounced *dauh*.

The letter-bag is held on to the man's shoulder by means of a spear with bells attached to it, and they

can be heard for some distance coming chink, chink, along the road. The spear is used for protection against either robbers or wild beasts; for they are sometimes attacked by the former and cruelly murdered, for the sake of any valuables or money which may be inclosed in the letters. Additionally, they frequently encounter a tiger or panther; for which reason they carry bells as well as a spear, for wild beasts are often frightened away, and also poisonous snakes, by the sound of noise, and have been known to scurry away at the jingling of the bells. These men are paid fairly well for their trouble, and being as a rule, like all natives of India, brave by nature, there is seldom any difficulty in finding men ready to risk their lives in this perilous vocation.

### 201.—What is the Chang Pouk?

The sacred White Elephant of Siam. Albinos have always been regarded with superstition in the East; especially are white monkeys revered, and records from the earliest times contain mention of them. The common white animals were prized, and quite naturally the rare ones were revered by a people among whom superstition has reigned for centuries, and so it comes that the possession of these creatures is considered the greatest possible honor. The Siamese themselves never speak of a white elephant, but of a Chang Pouk, or "strange-colored elephant." The important officials and dignitaries all claim relationship to it, the

king of Cambodia calling himself the "First Cousin of the White Elephant." His excellency (C. P.) has many titles, such as "Leveller of the Earth," "Glory of the Land," "Gem of the Sky," etc., and is also known as the Buddhist Bull. He lives in much luxury, covered with gold chain nets and silver bells, has dainty food, royal stables, an army of attendants, and its death is regarded as a national calamity.

**202.—Why is black used as a mourning color?**

Its origin is unknown. To show sorrow for the dead by wearing some distinctive clothing is a custom as old as it is wide-spread. Among Europeans and Americans the color chosen to represent the sorrow and solemnity of death is black. To us it at first seems strange that any other tint should be selected for this purpose; and yet almost every other color has been chosen by one nation or another as the most suitable to the occasion. The Romans and Spartans of old preferred white; and so do the Chinese. Some African nations use brown; but the Egyptians adopt yellow. The Turks show their sorrow by wearing robes of violet; and some Pacific Islanders express the same by wearing gray.

**203.—What strange present did the King of Siam send to Queen Victoria?**

More than thirty years ago Sir John Bowring wrote that fifty thousand dollars was the possible

money value of a white elephant, and also stated that a few hairs from the tail of the animal were worth a fortune. Sir John was charged with a state message to this king, and on his return home was presented with a golden box with instructions to present it to Her Majesty, as a gift from the King of Siam. When opened it was found to contain a few hairs from the tail of one of the king's white elephants.

#### 204.—Who was the Pearl of Cachetia?

Queen Ketevan, of Cachetia, Georgia, who went as a ransom to Shah Abbas the Great, of Persia, about the year 360, and by this tyrannical monster was burned to death, at Shiraz, for not renouncing her Christian faith. A month later the ransomed ashes of the martyred queen were taken back to rest with her ancestors in the beautiful city of Alaverde.

#### 205.—What American General lived upon acorns?

During the war against the Creek Indians in Alabama and Georgia (1817), after Andrew Jackson had defeated them in several battles and burned many of their villages, at the approach of winter provisions became scarce, and the soldiers became violent in their demands to return home. Jackson said he would shoot the first man who started, and set them a good example by living on acorns himself. In the spring the enemy was completely conquered.

206.—What is meant by the Urim and Thummim?

The real meaning has never been exactly ascertained: the general opinion is that they were twelve jewels with the names of the twelve tribes, and that on consulting the divine oracle the answer was given by the prominence which particular letters assumed, or the lustre cast on them.

207.—What is the origin of the name "silhouette"?

Etienne Silhouette was Minister of Finance in Paris in 1759. The period was a critical one, for the treasury was in an exhausted condition, and Silhouette in his honesty would hold no intercourse with financiers or money-lenders, and could contrive no other expediency than excessive economy and reform. His associates and the loan-mongers took his advice only to ridicule him. They cut their coats shorter and wore them without sleeves. They turned their gold snuff-boxes into rough wooden ones, and the new-fashioned portraits were now profiles of the face traced by a black pencil on the shadow cast by a candle on white paper. All the fashions assumed an air of niggardly economy, till poor Silhouette was driven into retirement with all his savings and reforms, but has left his name to describe the most economical sort of portrait—as melancholy as his own fate.

**208.—What is a Hobby-de-Hoy?**

A lad between the ages of fourteen and twenty-one. Thomas Tusser [1515(?)–1580 (?)] was the author of a didactic poem, published in 1557, the first edition being entitled, *A Hundredth Good Pointes of Husbandrie*. It was afterward enlarged, and published, in 1573, under the title of *Five Hundredth Pointes of Good Husbandrie, united to as many of Good Husewiferie*. In this latter work is the following:

- 1–7. The first seven years bring up a child;
  - 7–14. The next to learning, for waxing too wild;
  - 14–21. The next to keep under Sir Hobby-de-Hoy;
  - 21–28. The next, a man, and no longer a boy.
- (L. 1557.)

**209.—What was the name of the Queen of Sheba?**

Her name is not given in the Bible, but in the Koran she is called *Balkis*. Some writers have used the name *Maqueda* in referring to her, but upon what authority is not known.

**210.—When was a steel pen sold for twenty-five dollars?**

After the death of the poet Churchill, November 10, 1764, his effects were sold at auction, and some extravagant prices were realized; among others may be mentioned that a common steel pen brought £5.

211.—What is the origin of "Bachelor" of Arts?

Talbot derives this word from the Spanish *bachillir* (a babbler), so called from the disputations held in the school before the first degree is conferred, whence also a good disputer in Cambridge, England, is called a *wrangler*. The word was formerly spelled *bachiller*. Thus in the *Proceedings of the Privy Council*, vol. i. p. 72, it is stated, "The king ordered that the bachillers should have reasonable pay for their trouble." In connection with this it may be noted as remarkable, that the French *bachelette* should mean a *damsel*, and the Norman *damoiselle* should mean a young gentleman.

212.—When did the custom of "drinking healths" come into use?

This custom can lay claim to an antiquity of more than fourteen hundred years, the earliest observance of it having taken place in the fifth century. The Saxon chieftain Hengist, having had the Isle of Thanet given to him by King Vortigern for his services against the Picts and Scots, erected a fortress there, and after its completion invited the king to supper within its warlike walls. After the repast Hengist called for his daughter, Rowena, and she entered the banqueting-hall with a golden bowl full of wine in her hand, and drank to King Vortigern, saying, "Wes heil" ("Here's health to you"), to which he replied, "Drink heil" ("I drink your health"). Vortigern, enamored of Rowena's beau-



ty, afterwards married her, and gave her and her father all Kent.

213.—Who is the author of "Now I lay me down to sleep"?

In the library of the Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston, is an almanac of the year 1691, containing the following advertisement:

"There is now in the Press, and will suddenly be extant, a Second Impression of *the New England Primer enlarged*, to which is added, more *Directions for Spelling the Prayer of K. Edward the 6th*, and *Verses made by Mr. Rogers the martyr left as a legacy to his children*. Sold by Benjamin Harris at the *London Coffee House in Boston*." This is the first known printed notice of this Primer, the origin of which is involved in entire obscurity. A copy is in existence bearing date 1775. "Now I lay me down to sleep" is among the "Verses made by Mr. Rogers the martyr."

214.—What are Billy Bonges?

The greater part of the watercourses in Australia can scarcely be said to exist, except during the rainy season. In summer their beds are only indicated by pools of stagnant water at intervals, and these are called by the colonists "billy bonges." The words are to be found in Gerstäcker's *Journey Around the World*.

## 215.—When was England's "unlucky year"?

In 1782. She was at war with her own colonies in North America, and with France and Spain. It was in this year that the unfortunate *Royal George* sank at Portsmouth. She was being laid upon one side, in order to examine and repair her lower works. A sudden squall came on, which threw her on her beam-ends. Her port-holes being open at the time the water rushed in, and the vessel went down with between eight and nine hundred souls. Admiral Kempenfelt, her brave and able commander, who was on board at the time, was among the drowned. The winter of this year was a very long one. It lasted late into the month of May, thereby causing great distress.

The City of London had to pay \$27,000 as compensation for damages done by rioters some time before. Another unusual sight to English eyes was that of the combined fleets of France and Spain cruising off the west coast of that country. Lord Rodney, however, successfully attacked them, and one of the French admirals, the Count de Grasse, was landed as a prisoner at Portsmouth.

In the same year the last attempt made by the Spaniards to win back Gibraltar was finally defeated. It was the third year of the siege, but the garrison still held out with undiminished courage. On September 12, 1782, the united fleets of France and Spain took up their position in the bay for a

last grand attack. They numbered forty-seven sail-of-the-line; ten battering ships, the strongest ever built up to that time; and many smaller vessels. On land there was an army of forty thousand men, with two hundred pieces of cannon. The defenders numbered seven thousand. When the attacking ships had taken their positions the battle began. Red-hot shot was fired from the rock, and after some hours the result was no longer doubtful. The enemy's flagship was on fire. Others soon afterward burst into flames. Disorder spread among them all; their fire grew slack, and by eight o'clock it had nearly ceased. Thus this famous attack, which it had been thought *could not* fail, ended in the destruction of the proud fleet brought against the place.

**216.—What was the most noted death-warrant ever issued?**

That purporting to be of the Saviour. The Commissioners of Arts of the French army, while excavating the ancient city of Aquila, in the kingdom of Naples, in the year 1810, are said to have discovered a copper plate in an antique marble vase, on which was an inscription in the Hebrew language. It was translated into French, and deposited in the sacristy of the Carthusians. On the reverse was written, "A similar plate is sent to each tribe." The translation reads thus:

"Sentence rendered by Pontius Pilate, acting Governor of Lower Galilee, stating that Jesus of

Nazareth shall suffer death on the cross. In the year seventeen of the Emperor Tiberius Cæsar, and the 27th day of March, the city of the holy Jerusalem,—Annas and Caiaphas being priests, sacrificators of the people of God,—Pontius Pilate, Governor of Lower Galilee, sitting in the presidential chair of the prætory, condemns Jesus of Nazareth to die on the cross between two thieves, the great and notorious evidence of the people saying, 1st, Jesus is a seducer; 2d, he is seditious; 3d, he is the enemy of the law; 4th, he calls himself falsely the son of God; 5th, he calls himself falsely the King of Israel; 6th, he entered into the temple followed by a multitude bearing palm-branches in their hands.

“Orders the first centurion, Quilius Cornelius, to lead him to the place of execution. Forbids any person whomsoever, either poor or rich, to oppose the death of Jesus Christ. The witnesses who signed the condemnation of Jesus are, 1st, Daniel Robani, a Pharisee; 2d, Joanus Robani; 3d, Raphael Robani; and 4th, Carpet, a citizen.

“Jesus shall go out of the city of Jerusalem by the gate of Struenus.”

217.—Who was the first white settler of Rhode Island?

In the year 1007, Thorfinn Karlsefne, a Norse nobleman, and his wife Gudrid, settled in the present State of Massachusetts. The party consisted of one hundred and fifty-one men and seven women. A number of cattle and sheep were also carried on

this occasion to what they called the country—Vinland. They all arrived there in safety, and remained for three years, when hostilities between them and the Skrællings (Indians) compelled them to give up their colony. At the same time a party of Northmen settled in Rhode Island, but were obliged to abandon their colony on account of attacks from the Skrællings.

“There, for my lady’s bower,  
Built I the lofty tower  
Which to this very hour  
Stands looking seaward.”—*Longfellow*.

When Roger Williams went to Rhode Island in 1636 he found William Blackstone, “the man of mystery,” whom the first planters of Massachusetts Bay found established on the Shawmut Peninsula, now Boston. Blackstone probably went to Rhode Island in 1634.

218.—What is the meaning of the expression “The Scots sold their king for a groat”?

During the civil war in England between the Roundheads and the Cavaliers, Charles I., after the battle of Naseby, in 1645, in which the Royalists were defeated, was forced to seek refuge in the Scottish camp. On August 8, 1646, they gave him up to the English Parliament for £400,000. Some industrious mathematician computed that this was

just a groat apiece for the whole population of Scotland, and hence arose the saying quoted above.

**219.—What is the origin of the name Cent?**

The term "cent" is from the Latin *centum*, signifying a hundred. The first United States Cents were coined in 1793, when 112,212 of them were issued. The inscription on one side of coins issued in 1783 was "Unity States of America," and on the other "Washington and Independence, 1783." The word One Cent is on this Washington token, as a word first used to designate money by Thomas Jefferson.

**220.—How did they prove women to be witches?**

By throwing them into the water to see whether they would sink or swim. If the latter, the proof was conclusive, and they were punished for being such. By sinking their innocence was demonstrated! On June 16, 1760, a mob threw two old women into the water at Glen, in Leicestershire, England, to see if they were witches. The result of this involuntary bath is not given.

**221.—What peculiar present was sent to Alexander the Great?**

Darius, king of Persia, demanded of Alexander the Great a tax of one thousand golden eggs (334 B.C.). The Macedonian king refused, where-

upon Darius sent him a bat, ball, and a sack of small seeds—the two former to ridicule his youth, and the latter to represent the great number of the Persian army. The bat is represented as having the appearance of the modern snow-shovel.

**222.—What is the origin of the word “mosquito”?**

“They paint themselves to keep off the muskittos.”—Purchas’ *Pilgrimage*, 1617.

Although the immediate origin of the word is partially concealed, it is probably derived from a tribe of Indians called Moscos, which inhabited the northeastern corner of Spanish Central America. The form mosquito, or moskito, is undoubtedly traceable to the early English traffic with the natives of this shore.

The Indians have a very satisfactory account of the origin of the Montezuma mosquitoes. The legend runs thus: There were in times of old, many moons ago, two huge feathered monsters permitted by the Manitou to descend from the sky and alight on the banks of the Seneca River. Their form was exactly that of the mosquito. They were so large that they darkened the sun like a cloud as they flew toward the earth. Standing one on either bank, they guarded the river, and stretching their long necks into the canoes of the Indians as they attempted to paddle along the stream, gobbled them up, as the stork king in the fable gobbled up the frogs. The destruction of life was so great that

not an Indian could pass without being devoured in the attempt. It was long before the monsters could be exterminated, and then only by the combined efforts of all the warriors of the Cayuga and Onondaga nations. The battle was terrible, but the warriors finally triumphed, and the mammoth mosquitoes were slain and left unburied. For this neglect the Indians had to pay dearly. The carcasses decomposed, and the particles, vivified by the sun, flew off in clouds of mosquitoes, which have filled the country ever since.

223.—Who was the author of “The Muse in Livery”?

Under this strange title a book was published by Robert Dodsley, who from being a footman rose to wealth as a bookseller and publisher. Nor was he without some literary fame. His writings would not have handed his name down to posterity, but they escaped much adverse criticism from the modesty of their author. He was never ashamed of his former occupation, and when a certain Dartineuf was once mentioned before a distinguished company, he said, “I know Dartineuf well, for I was once his footman.”

224.—How did O. K. come to signify “all correct”?

There are many explanations for the modern use of these letters. The story of President Jackson marking state papers with these cabalistic charac-



ters as a signification of his indorsement, according to Seba Smith, is well known. By some punster they were used as initials of the imaginary spelling indicated in the pronunciation of these words. Their first use, however, was by Old Keokuk, the pacific chief of the Sacs and Foxes. When he sold Iowa to the Government he signed the deed with the initials O. K. His co-chief, the fiery B. H. (Black Hawk), refused to sell or sign away the rights of his people to the beautiful land, and hence the "Black Hawk War." Old Keokuk passed years ago to the happy hunting-ground of the beyond, but his O. K. continues to supply a long-felt want in the English language. It is also stated that they were used by John Jacob Astor as initials of a supposed correct spelling. Another explanation of "O. K." may be offered. This is, that "in early colonial days a brand of tobacco of peculiar excellence came from the then French town of Aux Cayes, in Santa Domingo." In course of time any good tobacco came to be known as Aux Cayes tobacco, and finally the word was corrupted into the two letters whose sound it resembles, to denote anything of superior quality.

**225.—What were the seven wonders of the ancient world?**

The answer to this query has been published in hundreds of publications during the past ten years; but it is an ever-recurring question, and the following is given, taken from the manuscript work of

Robert H. Hart of Brooklyn, N. Y., now deceased. The measurements of some vary from those of more recent date.

1. The Egyptian Pyramids, the largest of which is 693 feet square and 469 feet high, and its base covers  $1\frac{1}{4}$  acres of ground. John Taylor and Professor C. Piazzzi Smyth make the height 486 feet. It was erected B.C. 2170. The Great Pyramid of Gizeh is said to have been twenty years in building, and 100,000 men employed. The architect is believed by many Egyptologists to have been Philitis. It was said they were built by the brothers Cheops and Cephrenes. Josephus says the Israelites were employed on them.

2. The Walls and Hanging Gardens of Babylon. These walls are stated by Herodotus to have been 87 feet thick, 350 feet high, and 60 miles in length. The statement is deemed credible by modern antiquarians. Herodotus describes the Temple of Belus, the walls, and the king's palace. The temple was adorned by gold statues valued at 5000 talents, or \$1,000,000.

3. The Temple of Diana at Ephesus, which was 425 feet in length and 220 feet in breadth. "Great is Diana of the Ephesians" was the cry of the craftsmen, says Acts xix. 28. It was completed in the reign of Servius, sixth king of Rome. Built of cedar and cypress. It was supported by 127 marble columns of the Ionic order, 60 feet high, and 220 years in building. The architect was Cersiphron,

The altar was the work of Praxiteles. The famous sculptor Scopas chiselled one of the columns.

4. The Chryselephantine Statue of Jupiter Olympus at Athens, which was made of ivory and gold, and was wonderful for its beauty rather than for its size. It was almost seventy feet high. The architect was Phidias, the illustrious artist of Greece.

5. The Mausoleum erected to Mausolus, King of Caria, by his widow Artemisia. It was 113 feet square and 140 feet high. Mausolus died B.C. 365, and his widow died within two years, from excessive grief. The architects were Pithis and Satyrus conjointly. Anaxagoras was led to exclaim when viewing the structure, "How much money is changed into stone!"

6. The Pharos of Ptolemy Philadelphus was a lighthouse at Alexandria, in Egypt, on the island of Pharos, 500 feet high. A fire of wood was kept burning on its summit during the night to guide ships into the harbor. The architect was Sostratus, who chiselled into the solid marble back of Ptolemy's name, "Sostratus the Cnidian, to the Gods the Saviours, for the benefit of sailors."

7. The Colossus of Rhodes was a brazen statue of Apollo, 125 feet in height, standing at the mouth of the harbor of Rhodes. The architect was Chares, assisted by Laches, who was engaged on this work twelve years. It was hollow, having winding stairways leading to the top. Erected B.C. 300, and was

thrown down by an earthquake, after having stood sixty years. It remained in ruins 894 years, and it is recorded that a Jewish merchant bought it of the Saracens, and the brass loaded 900 camels, each carrying 800 pounds. Total weight, 720,000 pounds.

226.—How did the word “bogus” originate?

Webster's *Dictionary* gives the definition of the word as “spurious; a cant term originally applied to a counterfeit coin, and hence denoting anything counterfeit. (American.)” The word is of Georgia origin. William A. Bogus was a Georgia land-lottery commissioner years ago, caught in rascality in connection with his office. He issued fraudulent land-rights. And thus was our vernacular furnished with a genuine name for everything spurious and false.

227.—What was the noted “Moon Hoax”?

This renowned sensation first made its appearance from day to day in one of the morning papers, claiming to be “Great Astronomical Discoveries, lately made by Sir John Herschel, LL.D., F.R.S., etc., at the Cape of Good Hope.” The interest in the discovery was intense; the circulation of the paper was augmented five-fold, and was the means of giving the journal a permanent footing as a daily newspaper. An edition of 60,000 copies in pamphlet form was sold in less than a month. This pamphlet

form has become so scarce that a single copy was lately sold for \$3.75. A second edition published in 1859 is entitled "The Moon Hoax, or a discovery that the Moon has a vast population of Human Beings, by Richard Adams Locke," etc.

A SECOND "MOON HOAX."—In 1862 or 1863 the Boston *Journal* announced that a German astronomer had published a pamphlet announcing that "the second satellite to this earth planet" was to make its appearance in a few years, and this mundane sphere would be blessed with two attendant moons. The pamphlet was supplied with illustrations, calculations, and demonstrations of an *ecliptical* nature, showing where the favored living observers might expect to see the *new moon*. Up to this date we have remembered that astronomers are *moon-starers*, and we too have watched for its new phase.

## 228.—What is it to "box the compass"?

Simply to read the letters on the points of the compass, and to repeat them in due order as follows:

*North*.—North by east, north-north-east, north-east by north, north-east, north-east by east, east-north-east, east by north.

*East*.—East by south, east-south-east, south-east by east, south-east, south-east by south, south-south-east, south by east.

*South*.—South by west, south-south-west, south-

west by south, south-west, south-west by west, west-south-west, west by south.

*West.*—West by north, west-north-west, north-west, north-west by north, north-north-west, north by west.

In practice these divisions are subdivided by inserting the term “half,” making in all sixty-four points to the compass.

### 229.—How many words end in “cion”?

Seven: *Cion*, *scion*, *levacion*, *suspicion*, *coercion*, *internecion*, *pernicion*. The last two are not given in all editions of Webster, as they are obsolete. “Internecion” means mutual slaughter; “pernicion” means destruction, perdition.

### 230.—What are the only three words containing the vowels in regular order?

*Abstemious*, *arsenious*, and *facetious*.

### 231.—Where is Ailsa Craig?

It is a remarkable island-rock rising sheer out of the sea, at the mouth of the Firth of Clyde, ten miles off the coast of Ayrshire. It is two miles in circumference, and rises abruptly to the height of 1180 feet, being accessible at only one point. It is of greenstone, arranged in lofty columnar rocks, far exceeding in dimensions those of the far-famed Staffa, although not so regular in shape. A peculiar cave exists on one side of the rock, with the remains of an ancient stronghold, containing sev-

eral vaulted chambers. Large flocks of solan geese and innumerable rabbits are the sole tenants of this wild and romantic spot.

232.—Who was “Old Grimes”?

Ephraim Grimes, living in Hubbardston, Mass., in the latter years of the eighteenth century, was familiarly known as Old Grimes. He had an unwholesome notoriety for scurvy tricks and practical jokes—sometimes carried to the point of culpability. He was detected in passing counterfeit coin, exposed in the pillory at Worcester, and cropped, exhibiting reckless bravado. He disappeared for many years. Albert G. Greene’s ballad of *Old Grimes is Dead* was widely circulated, and was supposed to refer to him, though it is hardly probable. It is also stated that an English magistrate of the name is the hero of the political production. Grimes afterward reappeared in Hubbardston, a broken-down old man, and became an inmate of the poor-house, where he died in 1841.

233.—Why is it difficult to drown insects in water?

The reason is because they breathe by little tubes or spiracles all over the body; and for the same cause it is quite easy to destroy them even with a film of oil.

234.—What is the smallest known insect?

The *Pteratomus Putnamii*, a parasite of the ich-

neumon, which is one ninetieth of an inch long. The largest insect known is the *Erebus Strix*, Linn. It is a nocturnal moth, with wings expanding as much as fourteen inches.

**235.—**What animal can move a burden three hundred and fifteen times its own weight?

A French entomologist made a beetle do this. The muscular power of insects is enormous. A flea can leap over a barrier five hundred times its own height. At that rate a man could jump over a wall three fifths of a mile high.

**236.—**What is the meaning of "padlocks"?

It is derived from the Danish word *paddle*, a toad, and is thus often called from its resemblance to that animal.

**237.—**Has the butterfly a mouth?

Neither butterflies nor moths have mouths to use in eating; but instead a proboscis to extract sweet juices from flowers. Neither do they grow after assuming the winged state. As caterpillars they are voracious eaters, sometimes stripping trees in lawns in a single day.

**238.—**What animal has more than five toes?

No animal has more than five toes, digits, or claws to each foot or limb. The horse is one-toed;



the ox is two-toed; the rhinoceros, three-toed; the hippopotamus, four-toed; and the elephant, five-toed. Carnivorous animals never have less than four toes on all their feet. The hyena alone has four on each foot. The dog has four on each hind foot.

239.—What is the fifth essence called quintessence?

1. *Fire* is said to be the Imponderable form; 2. *Air* is said to be the Gaseous form; 3. *Water* is said to be the Liquid form; 4. *Earth* is said to be the Solid form; 5. *Ether* is said to be the Subtile form or *quint-essence*.

240.—What is the origin of the phrase “a nine days’ wonder”?

It is thought to have originated in some reference to the nine days during which Lady Jane Grey was styled Queen of England. Another authority attributes it to the nine days after birth during which a puppy remains blind. There is an old proverb given in Bohn’s *Handbook of Proverbs*, “A wonder lasts nine days, and then the puppy’s eyes are open.”

241.—Who is the author of the expression “still they come”?

The lines in which it occurs are from *Macbeth*, act. v. sc. 5, and are as follows:

“Hang out our banners on the outward walls;  
The cry is still, ‘They come.’”

242. — What is the longest name ever used?

According to Professor Francis Fauvel-Gouraud, there was a negro king on the coast of Africa whose cognomen was the euphonious word HAGABABASAMADASABALANARAHITARAGARADALAMMASAKA-LAFARHAMAHMAHTALALADALAHSATARAHNAMAHAHAGAB-AHA, containing eighty-eight letters.

Aristophanes gives us a *polysyllabic* word in *Ekklesiiazousai*, v. 1169, containing one hundred and sixty-eight letters and seventy-seven syllables:

“Lepadotemachoselachogaleokraniroleiphanodrimupotrimmatossilphioparaomelitokatakechumenokichlepikossuphophattoperisteralektruonontegkeph-alokigklopeleiolagoosiraibaletraganopterugon.”

(There is an omission of twenty-nine letters (silphioparaomelitokatakechumeno) in this word as given in Brewer's *Dictionary of Phrase and Fable*, ninth edition, page 524.)

Which translated means:

“A fricassee consisting of shell-fish-salt-fish-skate-shark-remainders-of-heads-besprinkled-with-sharp-sauce-of-lasERPitium-leek-and-honey-thrushes-besides-blackbirds-pigeons-doves-roasted-cocks-brains-wagtails-cushats-hare's-flesh-steeped-in-a-sauce-of-boiled-new-wine-with-the-cartilages-and-wings.”

243.—What are the nine points of the law?

1, A good deal of money; 2, a good deal of pa-

tience; 3, a good cause; 4, a good lawyer; 5, a good counsel; 6, good witnesses; 7, a good jury; 8, a good judge; 9, good luck.

**244.—**What bird was made the mystic emblem of Christ, and why?

The pelican; from the strange belief that it would sit three days on its dead young, and then revive them by her own blood.

**245.—**When did flour sell for six hundred dollars a pound?

In 1862 two men were contesting the mayoralty of the little city of Austin, Nev. These two agreed that whichever of them should be elected mayor was to publicly present the other with a fifty-pound sack of flour, which the defeated candidate was to carry home on his back. This was duly done. Gridley—for this was the name of the unsuccessful candidate—received the flour-sack and carried it the two miles or so to his home, accompanied by a band of music and a procession of almost the whole population. Upon arriving there Gridley inquired what he should do with the sack. A voice from the crowd shouted, "Sell it to the highest bidder for the benefit of the Sanitary Fund." This was a fund which was started during the Civil War for the benefit of the wounded soldiers and sailors. No sooner said than done. Gridley mounted a tub that stood near, and the

auction began, amidst tremendous excitement, for the Sanitary Fund was extremely popular, and each man tried to outbid his neighbor. After an hour's hard shouting the amateur auctioneer stopped, and the sack was knocked down to a man for two hundred and fifty dollars. "Where shall the sack be sent?" was then asked. "Nowhere! Sell it again!" came the answer.

The cheers were deafening after this announcement, and Gridley again mounted his rostrum, and again the bids came fast and furious. Before sunset the sack had been sold and resold to three hundred separate people, and two thousand dollars in gold had been paid down for it. This, however, was but the beginning. Virginia City telegraphed for the sack, and fifteen hundred dollars was paid for it the first night. Three of the nearest towns were visited, and most enthusiastic auctions held in each. A second night's auction in Virginia City resulted in her paying three thousand dollars. The sack afterward visited a great number of towns; for three months Gridley travelled up and down the Pacific coast, holding auctions in each place where he stopped, and obtaining a sum of not less than thirty thousand dollars on behalf of the fund.

The flour was finally made up into little cakes, each of which realized a fancy price. The wounded soldiers and sailors had come to bless the idea of putting up to auction the "Sanitary Sack,"

**246.—What is the story of Zeuxis and the birds?**

Zeuxis, the ancient painter, produced a cluster of grapes upon the canvas with such consummate skill that the birds came and picked at them. This success greatly elated the artist, whose fame went abroad, reaching the ears of one Parrhasius, a rival artist, who determined to deceive Zeuxis himself. One day he introduced the painter of the grapes to his studio, where was the picture which was to excel what Zeuxis had done. "Draw aside the curtain," said the latter, "that we may see the painting." The curtain itself was the picture, and the painter of it was declared the greatest, because he had deceived the one who had deceived the birds.

Another story is related of Zeuxis, of rather a novel character, and which is well authenticated. He painted a boy with a basket of grapes, to which the birds, as before, resorted. But this gave him, very properly, great dissatisfaction. He reasoned that the painting must be a failure, for, had the similitude been in both cases equal, the birds would have been deterred, by fear of the boy, from approaching the picture!

**247.—What is the "prettiest creature" that lives under water?**

The sea-mouse. It sparkles like a diamond, and is radiant with all the colors of the rainbow, although it lives in mud at the bottom of the ocean,

It should not be called a mouse, for it is larger than a big rat. It is covered with scales that move up and down as it breathes, and glitter like gold shining through a fleecy down, from which fine silky bristles wave, that constantly change from one brilliant tint to another.

**248.—Why is Thanksgiving Day always on Thursday?**

The New England Thanksgiving dates back to the first year of the settlement of Massachusetts. Governor Bradford appointed a day of Thanksgiving after the first harvest had been gathered in "Before the appointment of this first Thanksgiving, the Governor sent out a 'fowling expedition,' that for their thanksgiving dinners, and for the festivities of the week, they might have 'more dainty and abundant materials than ordinary.' This was the week in which Massasoit and ninety of his men were entertained. Labor was suspended, and the English employed themselves in military exercises before their visitants." It was a *week* instead of a *day* of Thanksgiving, the day of feast and religious exercises being Thursday. Thus without any special reason aside from convenience, it being near the middle of the week, Thursday, by precedent and custom, became the usual day for this national feast.

**249.—What was the "Wicked Bible"?**

The one printed in 1631, and so called from the

fact that the negative has been left out of the seventh commandment (Exodus xx. 14), for which the printer was fined three hundred pounds.

**250.—What is the smallest book in the world?**

The smallest book ever printed since type was first invented is a microscopic edition of Dante's *Divina Commedia* (Divine Comedy), which was exhibited at the Paris Exposition of 1882. The whole volume of five hundred pages is only five centimetres long by three and a half centimetres wide. (A centimetre is less than half an inch.) Two sheets of paper sufficed to contain all the 14,323 verses of the poem, thirty verses occupying a space of somewhat less than eight square centimetres. The type was cast as long ago as 1834, but no complete book had hitherto been turned out in it, the difficulties for compositors and revisers being so enormous that the attempts were given up time after time, no one being able to continue the work.

**251.—Where is the Land of Ducks?**

Iceland is called by this name. The people there know nothing of green woods, nor tall trees with outspreading branches, nor of the birds that fill the air with songs. Iceland has only one bird. There is no corn to be seen in this land of desolation, waving to and fro in the wind; no gardens gay with flowers: all is dwarfed and hindered in its growth, even in summer-time, which is very short; and in

winter, for months at a time, no sun is to be seen. But one thing is to be seen in great abundance, and that is, ducks—the Eider ducks.

252.—What was the origin of applying “tar and feathers” to offensive persons?

A statute of Richard Cœur de Lion (the Lion-hearted) enacted that any robber voyaging with the Crusaders “shall be first shaved, then boiling pitch shall be poured upon his head, and a cushion of feathers shook over it ;” he was then to be put on shore at the very first place the vessel touched. (Rymer, *Fœdera*, I. 56.) The earliest record of this punishment is in 1189.

253.—What is the origin of the phrase “where the shoe pinches”?

It is given in Plutarch’s *Life of Emilius Paulus*. A Roman who had been divorced from his wife was greatly blamed by his friends for his course. “Was she not chaste? Was she not fair?” they asked. Holding out his shoe, he replied: “Is it not new and well made? Yet none of you can tell where it pinches me.”

254.—What is the origin of the words Whig and Tory?

There is much discussion regarding the signification and first use of these terms; but *Toree* is an old Irish word meaning *give me*, used by robbers, equiv-



alent to the demand, "Your money or your life."

*Whig* is a word used in Scotland for sour milk or whey. *Tory* was first used in politics in 1679, to designate the adherents of James, Duke of York. *Whig* was applied to the "Covenanters," and in 1648 to persons opposed to the court. It is stated by some that it is from the initials of the motto of a political club, "We hope in God."

255.—What is the meaning of the word Mississippi?

An analysis of the word will show that it does not mean "Father of Waters" at all. In the Indian language, Sepe means river; Mis-sisk, grass; Mis-sisk-ke-on, weeds; Mis-sisk-ke, medical herbs; Mis-sisk-ke-wa-kuk, field of exuberant herbage; Mis ku-tuk, meadow. The broad bottom-lands along the river were called Mis-ku-tuk. The tribes along the sides of the river were called Mis-shu-tan, signifying "meadow people." Thus we have the literal meaning of the word Mis-sisk-sepe, or Mississeepe, the river of meadows or grass.

256.—What is the origin of the political maxim, "To the victors belong the spoils"?

It is usually attributed to William L. Marcy, Secretary of War in Polk's Administration, and Secretary of State under President Pierce. In a speech in the Senate in 1832 he said, "They see nothing wrong in the rule, that to the victors belong the

spoils of the enemy." Catiline the conspirator announced the same doctrine to his followers. See Sallust, *Catiline's Conspiracy*, xxi.

257.—What is the origin of the saying, "Nine tailors make a man"?

It is said to have originated in the following incident: In 1740 or 1742 an orphan boy applied at a fashionable tailor's shop in London, in which nine journeymen were employed. His interesting appearance opened the hearts of the benevolent tailors, who immediately contributed nine shillings for the relief of the little stranger. With this capital he purchased fruit, which he retailed at a profit. Time passed, and wealth and honor smiled upon the young tradesman, so that when he set up his carriage, instead of troubling the College of Heraldry for a crest, he painted the following motto on the panel of his carriage-door: "*Nine tailors made me a man.*" But long before this, in 1682, the following was published in the *Grammatical Drollery*:

"There is a proverb which has been of old,  
And many men have likewise been as bold,  
To the discredit of the Taylors' Trade,  
'Nine Taylors goe to make up a man,' they said;  
But for their credit I'll unriddle it t'ye:  
A draper once fell into povertie,  
Nine Taylors joyn'd their purses together then,  
To set him up and make him a man agen."

It has also been said that *nine tailors* is a corruption

of nine *tollers*, having reference to a custom in German villages, and formerly in New England, of signalling the death of a child by *three* quick strokes of the village bell, of a woman by *three times two*, and of a man by *three times three* strokes of the bell with a short interim; and after tolling a few minutes slowly, announcing the age of the deceased by as many strokes as the person had lived years. Hence *nine tollers* (or tolls) made or indicated a *man*. This latter explanation is doubtful, and generally regarded as very inadequate.

258.—What two names are embalmed in those of highways?

The macadamized road is so called from John MacAdam, an Englishman, who published this system of road-making to the world in the year 1819. A tramway in the middle of the road—a common occurrence in England—derives its name from Benjamin Outram, who made many improvements in this kind of railway about the year 1800. He was the father of Sir James Outram, a brave soldier, whose name is connected with the history of the Indian Empire.

259. — Why did the early Christians adopt the “peacock” as the symbol of the resurrection?

On account of the fabled incorruptibility of its flesh.

260.—Who was “Atala, the Beautiful Indian of the Mississippi”?

This was the name of a romance by Châteaubriand (1769–1848), published in France in 1801. Atala was a beautiful Indian princess who embraced Christianity, and was beloved by Chactas, the supposed narrator of the story. She took poison under a misapprehension of duty, and her burial is thus described in the romance. Chactas is supposed to be speaking:

“The eastern horizon was now fringed with gold, the sparrowhawks shrieked on the cliffs, and the sables hastened into the crevices of old elms: it was the time appointed for Atala’s funeral. I took her senseless corpse on my shoulders; the hermit walked before me, carrying a spade; we descended from rock to rock. Old age and death equally retarded our steps. At the sight of the dog that had discovered us in the woods, and that now, skipping before us, showed the dismal road, I could not refrain from shedding floods of tears. . . . As soon as the dismal work was completed we placed the beautiful virgin in her earthly bed. Alas! I had hoped to prepare another couch for her. Taking some dust in my hand, I silently cast, for the last time, my haggard looks on Atala; then I spread the ancient earth on a face of eighteen springs.”

This incident forms the subject of a painting by the noted French artist Gustave Courtois.

### 261.—What was the Vocal Memnon?

The Greeks called a statue of Amenophis at Thebes the Statue of Memnon. It stands on the banks of the Nile, is forty-seven feet high, and extends seven feet below the ground. Ancient writers relate that about sunrise each morning there issued from this gigantic monolith a musical sound resembling the breaking of a harp-string. This was produced by strong currents of air passing through crevices in the stone, or possibly by placing a reed or something to vibrate in the opening through which the air must pass.

### 262.—Who was the original Mother Goose?

Sir William Wells Newell, who delivered a course of lectures on "Folk Lore" in the chapel of the Church of the Messiah in New York, brought the series to a close with a discourse—adapted to the ears and years of grown-up people—on *Nursery Tales*, in the course of which he made some interesting remarks about Mother Goose, incidentally remarking, with considerable force, upon Boston's claim to the nativity of that famous author. "Knowing what I do about Mother Goose," said Sir William, "it pained and surprised me to see it asserted in print that she was once a lady of Boston. As nearly as I can make out, this preposterous claim is based solely upon the fact that in the year 1692 there resided in Boston a Mr. Isaac Ver-goose, who married for his second wife one Eliza-

beth Foster. This lady, who, Bostonians assert, dropped the prefix and became simply Mrs. Goose, had several children,—thereby becoming Mother Goose,—among whom was Elizabeth. Elizabeth married a printer named Thomas Fleet, in 1715, and Thomas established a printing-house in Pudding Lane. According to the Boston story, Mr. Fleet had a son, into the tender ear of whom mother-in-law Goose, or Vergoose, was wont to chant strange but pleasing ditties. These her dutiful son-in-law published in pamphlet form. Now, to speak very plainly, though reluctantly, I do not believe this story. Much as it may shock the world at large, I have no hesitation in saying that I believe the great original Mother Goose was a heathen, and it is quite likely that instead of being a mild and inoffensive old woman, called Mother Goose on account of her vast simplicity, she may have been a malicious and alarming hag. Charles Perrault gave the title of *Contes de ma mère l'Oye* to a volume of tales published in 1697. But the name was not invented by him, for it was quoted by the satirist Regnier more than a century before. Queen Goosefoot (*Reine Pédauce*), Bertha with the great foot, or goose-foot, appear as synonyms of Mother Goose in French tales. Queen Bertha with the great foot was Charlemagne's mother, as is represented in the cycle of Charlemagne. Again there was a Bertha who was the wife of Rudolf of Burgundy. Now let it be remembered that Bertha means 'the bright,' and is a name of the ancient

Teutonic goddess equivalent to Hulda. On the Rhine, and in Switzerland, when Christianity came in, Bertha was represented as being dangerous to children. She presides over spinning, and sacrifices of meat and fish are still offered at her feasts. She has a long nose and large goose-feet. She doubtless got her goose-foot as the devil got his hoof—as a mark of degradation. The second day of the year is her festival, and is kept as a child's holiday." From this and other reasoning Mr. Newell was convinced that the name of Mother Goose originated from the Teutonic goddess presiding over housekeeping and children, degraded in Christian times as described. "Before," said he, "a subscription is raised to erect a monument to Mother Goose in front of the Old South Church may it be well to inquire into these facts."

### 263.—Who were the "Pine Robbers" of the Revolution?

A band of marauding Tories who infested the large districts of pine-woods in the lower part of Monmouth County, New Jersey, from which they made predatory excursions among the Whigs of the neighboring counties. They burrowed caves in the sand-hills for places of shelter and retreat, on the borders of swamps, and, covering them with brush, effectually concealed them. Their mission to burn, plunder, and murder was stopped finally through the efforts of a vigilance committee. Fenton, a blacksmith of Freehold, a man of gigantic stature,

the arch-fiend of them all, was shot by a young soldier of Lee's legion.

**264.—What was the Edict of Nantes?**

An edict by Henry IV. (Navarre) of France, in which he granted toleration to Protestants. It was passed April 13, 1598, and revoked by Louis XIV. on October 22, 1685. This revocation caused the emigration of fifty thousand Protestant families, some of whom settled in Charleston, S. C.

**265.—What is the water route from the "Golden Gate" to the "Golden Horn"?**

Pacific Ocean (Magellan Strait), Atlantic Ocean, Gibraltar Strait, Mediterranean Sea, Archipelago, Dardanelles, Marmora Sea, and Bosphorus. The *Golden Gate* connects San Francisco Bay with the Pacific Ocean, and the *Golden Horn* is the curved inlet of the Bosphorus forming a considerable part of the harbor of Constantinople. It is capable of floating twelve hundred ships. Strabo compared its form to a "stag's horn." The name is very ancient.

**266.—What is the origin of the term John Bull?**

This national nickname for an Englishman was derived from the name of Dr. John Bull, a famous musical composer in the time of Queen Elizabeth (1533-1603). Travelling *incognito* in Europe, he accomplished a wonderful feat of rapid composition, which led to the remark that the author "must be



either the Devil or John Bull." The term was unknown previous to that event.

267.—When and where was St. Clair's defeat?

On the 6th of September, 1791, General Arthur St. Clair, with an army of two thousand men, started from Fort Washington (Cincinnati) to break the power of the Miami confederacy. On the night of November 3d he reached a point nearly a hundred miles north of Fort Washington, and encamped on one of the upper tributaries of the Wabash, in what is now the southwest angle of Mercer County, Ohio. On the following morning at sunrise his camp was suddenly assailed by two thousand warriors or more, led by the chief Little Turtle, and several American renegades and British who had joined the Indians. After a terrible battle of three hours' duration, St. Clair was completely defeated, with a loss of about forty officers and nine hundred men. Captain Joseph Darke, son of General William Darke (who gave name to the county just south of this), was killed. General Darke made two fierce bayonet-charges on the foe, but his valor could not win the day. There is now built upon the site of this battle-field a small town called Fort Recovery. If Washington ever used any of the *harsh words* omitted from the Revised Testament,—and such is the tradition,—it was in a paroxysm of anger when he heard of St. Clair's defeat.

**268.—What became of General Arthur St. Clair?**

Though followed by a storm of abuse from the whole country, he still retained the friendship of Washington. He was tried by a court-martial for cowardice, incapacity, and treachery, but acquitted. He was appointed Governor of the Northwest Territory, and retained that position until near the termination of its existence, being removed from office by President Jefferson in 1802. Two and a half miles from Youngstown, Westmoreland County, Pa., on the Old State Road, is a little log-cabin on Chestnut Ridge, where he lived for several years in abject poverty. Shortly before his death, which resulted from injuries received in a "runaway," Pennsylvania settled an annuity of \$300 per annum upon him, afterward raised to \$650. A copy of the *Greensburg Gazette*, dated September 5, 1818, in our possession, gives an account of the funeral services of the hero, who died August 31, stating that "the masonick and military honors were performed at the grave with solemn and impressive effect." He lies buried in the St. Clair Cemetery at that place.

**269.—Is the sponge an animal or a vegetable?**

Examination by the microscope has fully demonstrated the fact that it has life, and therefore must be classed with the animal kingdom.

**270.—What country was given to Cain as an heritage?**

The Acadians have a tradition that God enjoined perpetual silence and desolation on Labrador and Anticosti when he gave them to Cain for an abiding-place. And it is certain that while other wilds of the earth yield to man's conquest, these vast wastes remain ever void and empty. The Indians called the island *Natiscotte*, "the country of wailing;" and under the modern corruption of Anticosti it has added to its terrible renown. Its whole history, from the day it was discovered in 1524, by Jacques Cartier, to the present, is a record of human suffering.

**271.—What is the Key of the Bastille?**

It is a black, rude, huge, cross-handled key of wrought iron, seven inches long, and looks as if it might have been framed by the Cyclops. The key was presented to General Washington by Lafayette as the fittest depositary of this terrible instrument of tyranny. With the key Lafayette sent a plaster model of the building. The latter, somewhat defaced from long exposure in the Alexandria Museum, is among the collections of the National Institute.

Lafayette wrote, in the letter accompanying the key: "Give me leave, my dear General, to present you with a picture of the Bastille just as it appeared a few days after I had ordered its demolition, with the main key of this fortress of despotism. It is a

tribute which I owe as a son to my adopted father, as an aide-de-camp to my general, as a missionary of liberty to its patriarch." It is still preserved at Mount Vernon, and can be seen in the large hall, secured in a glass case. The Bastille, built by Charles V. of France, in 1369, as a royal palace, was for ages the state prison of France, in which all the prisoners belonging to the nobility and higher orders were confined. The king himself or his ministers could, by means of "*lettres de cachet*," seize any person on any pretext whatever, and keep him in its dungeons without trial or inquiry for years. When the vengeance of the people laid it low on July 14, 1789, many old gray-haired prisoners were set free who had been so long immured that they regretted the restoration of their liberty.

**272.—When was the first almanac written?**

The word is derived from two Arabic words which mean to count. In one form or another their use is very ancient, but the precise date at which they were first used is unknown. The library of Lambeth Palace is said to contain an almanac written in 1460. The first printed almanac was published at Buda, and for it the compiler received a handsome present from the King of Hungary. Richard Pynson, in the year 1497, was the first to issue a printed almanac in England. Predictions soon began to be one of the chief features in them, owing, in a great measure, to the success of Michael

Nostradamus, who in his almanac was supposed to have predicted the deaths of Charles I. of England and Henry II. of France, the fire of London, and other great events. Some are still printed which try to rival his fame, but with little success.

### 273.—Where is Blue Beard's castle?

The ruins of the Château de la Verrier, on the banks of the Erdre, in the Department of the Loire Inférieure, France, are, according to the tradition of the neighboring peasantry, those of the castle of the celebrated Blue Beard, the hero of the well-known nursery tale. This formidable personage, who is not altogether a creature of fancy, was Giles de Retz (or Laval), who lived in the reign of Charles VII., and was a vassal of John Duke of Bretagne. He was tried at Nantes on suspicion of having destroyed a number of children, who had been seen to enter the castle and were never heard of afterward. The bodies of several were, however, found much later: he had caused them to be put to death, to make use of their blood in writing charms and forming incantations to raise infernal spirits, by whose means he believed (according to the horrid superstitions of the times) that buried treasures would be revealed to him. On his trial he confessed the most horrid acts of atrocity, and was sentenced to be burned alive; but the Duke caused him to be strangled before he was tied to the stake. This execution took place December 25, 1440, and a de-

tailed account of it is still preserved in a manuscript in the archives of Nantes.

274.—What was the origin of the “forget-me-not”?

The tradition which tells how this name came to be applied to the plant which now bears it is not generally known. It is that a lady and a knight were walking by the side of the Danube, interchanging vows of devotion and affection, when the former saw on the other side of the stream the bright blue flowers of the *mysotis*, and expressed a desire for them. The knight, eager to gratify her, plunged into the river, and reaching the opposite bank, gathered a bunch of flowers. On his return, however, the current proved too strong for him, and after many efforts to reach the land, he was borne away. With a last effort he flung the fatal blossom upon the bank, exclaiming as he did so, “Forget-me-not!”

275.—Where is the oldest house in the United States?

The building known as the “Old Craddock Fort” or “Old Craddock House,” on Ship Street, in East Medford, Massachusetts, is the oldest house in America. The building was commenced in 1634.

276.—What is sometimes called the “third lung”?

The skin, as its office is to throw off impure and

effete matter from the body through its pores by perspiration.

**277.—Where is there a burning lake?**

In Russia there is a fountain of naphtha which has formed a lake four miles long by over a mile wide, and two feet deep. Two years ago this sheet of inflammable oil took fire, including the central fount, and the effect was most imposing. The quantity of naphtha on fire was estimated at four and a half million cubic feet, and it was supposed that the flames would explode the subterranean sources; but though the earth saturated with oil was on fire, no explosion occurred.

**278.—What was the most curious map ever printed?**

One that circulated largely in Russia at the beginning of the present century, representing America as the largest of all islands. Upon it was the statement that this country was discovered by the Spaniards a little while before; that the people are said to be very ignorant, not knowing anything of letters; to know nothing of a God or religion, and to feed chiefly on baked meats and nutmegs. Upon this map the city of Moscow covers a much greater space than either the whole of Africa or America. It is shown in detail, with its walls, churches, and chief buildings. Well, therefore, might the Russian peasant who had such a map look upon Moscow as the greatest city of all the world.

279.—What is the history of "The Lost Colony of Roanoke"?

John White, under the patronage of Sir Walter Raleigh, attempted to establish a colony on Roanoke Island, N. C. White was appointed Governor, but did not remain long with the colonists, returning to England for supplies. Wars and commotions prevented his return for three years, and when he did so he found the island a desert. As he approached he sounded a signal-trumpet, but no answer came to disturb the melancholy stillness that brooded over the deserted spot. Nothing was found but a sign-board with the words *Cow* and *Croatan* marked or cut upon it. That the colonists went further south, where the natives were friendly, and became gradually incorporated with them, is almost certain. The Hatteras Indians, who lived on the island or frequented it, in 1714, said that several of their ancestors were white people and could *talk* in a book. The truth of this was confirmed by *gray eyes* being found frequently amongst those Indians—a circumstance not known to occur in any other tribe. Their sufferings during the three years of White's absence and their ultimate fate we can only conjecture.

280.—For what is John Davenport famous?

Though celebrated as a pulpit orator and with some reputation as an author, he is to be remembered as the brave man who, in 1661, concealed the



regicides Whalley and Goffe (the judges who were among those sentencing Charles I. to be beheaded), and when their pursuers were expected in New Haven, preached from the text Isaiah xvi. 3, 4: "Hide the outcasts; bewray not him that wandereth. Let mine outcasts dwell with thee, Moab; be thou a covert to them from the face of the spoiler."

281.—Who was John Dixwell?

Another one of the regicide judges, who escaped to America, took the name of John Davids, and lived undiscovered in New Haven, where he was married and left children.

282.—What works are of disputed authorship?

*The Picket Guard, or All Quiet along the Potomac; Beautiful Snow; and Over the Hills to the Poor-house.* The first is claimed by Major Lamar Fontaine of Texas, author of several war lyrics. On the contrary, Mrs. Ethel Beers contributed this piece to *Harper's Weekly*, in which periodical it first appeared in November, 1861. Those interested in the question of its authorship are referred to Davidson's *Living Writers of the South*, p. 194.

283.—What animal produces a "blazing" appearance?

Scientific investigations show among their latest results the existence of many curious light-giving forms in the lower depths of the ocean. Of these the most wonderful is the *luminous shark*, a speci-

men of which being captured and confined in a dark room gave forth from the surface of its body and head a vivid and greenish phosphorescent light.

284.—Who were called the “lion-hearted” kings and queens?

The Saracen Ali was called the “Lion of God;” Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden, the “Lion of the North;” Henry of Bavaria, the “Lion,” as also Louis VIII. of France. Richard I. of England was called “*Cœur de Lion*.” Queen Elizabeth has been called the “Lioness of England.”

285.—Who was the Mald of Bath?

She was Miss Lindley, a beautiful and accomplished singer, who became the first wife of Richard Brinsley Sheridan (1751-1816), the dramatist and statesman.

286.—What is the highest-priced book in the world?

In the Earl of Ashburnham's library a single book is known as the *Albani Missal*. It is an illuminated ancient MS., and has been valued at \$50,000.

287.—At what distance can people in the arctic regions converse with each other, and why?

In the third polar expedition of Sir Edward Parry conversation was carried on across the harbor of Port Bowen, when the speakers were more

than a mile apart. Why? The dense, cold air, the smooth surface of the ice, and the calm atmosphere usual when the thermometer is very low conspired to favor the transmission of sound. Old writers, as Enfield, and more recent ones who have copied from them, state that the words "All's well" of the sentinels have been heard from Old to New Gibraltar, a distance of twelve miles. The cannonading at Waterloo was heard in England and in the mines of Saxony.

**288.—What is meant by horse-power?**

A horse can perform 33,000 units of work—that is, can raise 33,000 pounds a foot—a minute. An engine, therefore, that can perform 33,000 units of work is said to be an engine of one horse-power. Rule: To find the horse-power of an engine, divide the number of pounds it can raise one foot in one minute by 33,000.

**289.—What were the Seven Hills of Rome?**

Aventinus, Palatinus, Coelius, Esquilinus, Quirinalis, Vaticanus, and Capitolinus, first called Saturnius. Mons Janiculus was partly within the wall, but there were no important buildings upon it.

**290.—Under what conditions might a cubic inch of lead weigh as much as a cubic foot of lead at a place near the earth's surface?**

If a man falling from a tower were to hold a cu-

bic inch of lead in one hand, and a cubic foot of lead in the other, there would be no difference in their weight, as neither would have any weight.

291.—If a ship founders at sea, to what depth will she descend?

An iron ship would reach the bottom of any sea yet sounded, but a wooden vessel might find an equiponderant medium, as water is slightly compressible. To know where, more data are necessary; still it is a poetical thought that ships may thus sink into submarine currents, and be carried hither and thither, with their precious cargoes of freight and passengers, on voyages that know no end, and toward harbors that they never reach.

292.—What causes the “singing of the tea-kettle”?

This interesting phenomenon, just *before* it boils, is caused by vibrations imparted to the air by the fitful formation and condensation of steam, probably mingled with air. When the simmering stops and boiling begins, the singing ceases.

293.—Has nature provided any lightning rods?

Yes. Providence has provided a harmless conductor in every leaf, spire of grass, and twig. A common blade of grass, pointed by nature’s exquisite workmanship, is three times more effectual than the finest cambric needle, and a single-pointed

twig than the metallic point of the best-constructed rod.

**294.—What is the gastroscope?**

An instrument by which it is possible to illuminate the interior of the stomach and see the condition of the lining membrane. It is an ingenious, delicate, and probably very costly instrument, and is more interesting as showing what can be done, than what is likely to be done frequently.

**295.—Why is the sea salt?**

The alkaline salts of the earth are washed by rivers into the sea. Here the pure water evaporates, while the saline ingredients remain, by constant accumulation occasioning the extreme saltiness of the ocean.

**296.—Who commanded the Americans at Bunker Hill?**

It has always been known that Prescott and Warren mutually waived the honor of taking charge of the forces gathered there—Warren's last response being that he would take a musket and fight as a common soldier. The opinion of the people of Connecticut that Israel Putnam commanded the Americans, with reasons thereof, may be seen in *Life of Putnam*, by Dr. Increase N. Tarbox; also in the *History of Windham County, Conn.*, vol. ii., by Miss Learned.

**297.—What gives the blue color to air?**

It is the vapor which it contains, reflecting the blue light of the sunbeam.

**298.—What causes the snapping of wood when laid on the fire?**

It is caused by the expansion of the air in the cells of wood.

**299.—What is the noted history of the Bass Rock?**

In the Bristol Channel is the Steep Holme, a little island rising high out of the waves, opposite the town of Weston-super-Mare, standing alone like a sentinel in the estuary. This is surpassed, however, in grandeur and interest by the Bass Rock. This island, a mass of hard rock, nearly a mile in circumference and about four hundred feet high, rises out of the sea near the mouth of the Firth of Forth, Scotland. On all sides but one the cliffs rise sheer from the waves to a great height. Only on the southwest can a landing be made, and there with difficulty. Through the rock from west to-east runs a cavern, the mouth of which can be entered at low-water. Thousands of geese settle on the rock, and give in the distance a snowy appearance.

The Rock has quite a history of its own, although little is known of its early owners or inhabitants. Tradition states that St. Baldred found a resting-place here in the seventh century. In 1316

it was granted to the Landers, from whom James VI., when he visited the rock in 1581, wished to buy it. Hither, as a place of safety, were sent the registers of the Church of Scotland, to save them from the hands of Oliver Cromwell. In 1671 the Rock was sold to Charles II. for four thousand pounds, and many eminent Covenanters were confined in dungeons upon it. In June, 1691, a handful of Jacobites captured the island, and held it for the Stuarts against all the force that could be sent against them, until April, 1694. Then, their supply of food being about exhausted, they surrendered on honorable terms. After this William III. ordered the fortifications to be destroyed. In 1706 the Rock was granted to the Dalrymples, to whom it now belongs.

### 300.—What and where is Tarim?

It is a river in Thibet and East Turkestan, Asia, known generally in most text-books as the Cashgar River.

301.—If a hole were bored through the earth, and a man thrown into it, would he pass entirely through?

If the theory of the internal heat of the earth be correct, a man falling into the hole would be vaporized in ten minutes or less, and the end of that man would be smoke—all but his bones, and they would never fall out on the other side. If the earth were a hollow shell, a body would be at rest at any

point within. The earth may be regarded as made up of "hollow shells" filled in solid, like the coats of an onion, in which case the point of rest must be in the centre.

### 302.—Who killed Osceola?

Although it is generally supposed that the Indian chieftain's death was occasioned by poison, it is also claimed that he was killed by George W. Bromley, a soldier of the Florida Indian and Mexico wars, who died at Darby, a suburb of Philadelphia, on August 17, 1883. Bromley, who served in the regular army for forty-eight years, was born in 1817. A few years ago he declined a commission and retirement with pay.

### 303.—Why can we not see the stars by day as well as by night?

In the daytime we cannot see them because of the superior light of the sun; but with a telescope they can be traced, and an astronomer will find certain stars as well at noon as he can others at midnight. And when looking at the sky from the bottom of a deep well or lofty chimney, if a bright star happens to be directly overhead, it can be seen with the naked eye even at mid-day.

### 304.—What is "the milky way"?

A whitish, vapory belt, that is composed of multitudes of millions of suns,—of which our own sun itself is one,—so far removed from us that their light mingles, and makes only a fleecy whiteness.



305.—Who was the youngest king that ever ruled?

We append the names of several youthful English kings: Edwy, son of Edmund I. (955-958), aged 16; Edward the Martyr, son of Edgar (975-978), aged 13; Henry II., son of King John (who granted the *Magna Charta*) (1216-1272), aged 9; Prince Edward III. (1327-1377), aged 14; and Henry VI. (1422-1461), crowned at Paris while an *infant*. The present Emperor of China succeeded to the throne at the age of 4, as did also Charles XI. of Sweden.

306.—Why do not rain-drops falling from the clouds strike with a force proportional to the laws of falling bodies?

The resistance of the atmosphere hinders their acceleration. If it were not for this wise provision a shower of rain-drops would prove as fatal as one of minie-rifle bullets.

307.—When was the first attempt made to establish an English colony?

In 1579, by Sir Humphrey Gilbert, the step-brother of Sir Walter Raleigh. Severe storms detained him, and when upon the ocean Spanish war-vessels forced him to return. In 1583 he sailed a second time, landed on the shores of Newfoundland, and erected a pillar bearing the arms of his government, but no attempt at settlement was made. On the return to England, Gilbert, "sitting abaft with a

book in his hand, cried out to those in the other vessel, 'We are as near to heaven by sea as by land.' " That same night the lights of the *Squirrel* (a bark of only ten tons) suddenly disappeared, and neither vessel nor any of its crew was ever seen again."

308.—What anecdote is related of General Wolfe's reading Gray's "Elegy"?

It is said that on the night the Heights of Abraham, Quebec, Canada, were scaled (Sept. 12, 1759), he repeated to the officers who sat about him as they floated softly down the St. Lawrence, at the past-midnight hour, the stanzas of the poem which had recently appeared, and which he had just received from England. Perhaps, as he uttered those strangely appropriate words,

"The paths of glory lead but to the grave,"

the shadow of his own approaching fate stole with mournful prophecy across his mind. "Gentlemen," he said, as he closed the recital, "I would rather have written those lines than take Quebec to-morrow."

309.—How was Cazette saved from the guillotine?

This distinguished Frenchman was imprisoned with his daughter during the Reign of Terror, and both awaited trial. An examination failed to elicit any proof of the daughter's guilt, and she was ac-

quitted. But she refused to leave the prison, preferring to share the fate of her father, that she might solace his lonely hours by her love and care. Her true affection made a deep impression upon the public mind, and for a long time her father was spared. But on September 2d, 1792, he was led forth to execution, and the axe was already raised to slay him. At that instant the faithful daughter flung herself upon her father's neck, exclaiming, "Strike, barbarians! You shall not kill my father until you have pierced my heart."

The hands of the executioner dropped. "Pardon," shouted a thousand voices.

The daughter was permitted to lead forth her father to liberty and home. Her filial love was rewarded, and her true worth as a daughter won her this supreme joy.

### 310.—What was the "Monroe Doctrine"?

The colonies of Spain in Mexico and South America revolted and established independent governments, which were acknowledged by the United States in 1822; and President Monroe in his annual message announced that "the American continents, by the free and independent position they have assumed and maintained, are henceforth not to be considered subjects for future colonization by any European power." Although this is known to be the language of John Quincy Adams, Secretary of State, it is called the Monroe doctrine,

**311.—How can you tie a knot in a bone?**

By soaking the bone in weak muriatic acid the mineral matter is removed, leaving the animal product; and in this softened condition it can readily be bent or twisted into any shape.

**312.—Can a person talk without a tongue?**

Yes; for when the tongue is removed the adjacent organs in some way largely supply the deficiency, so that speech is still possible.

**313.—What is the Algebraic Paradox?**

The proof that  $2 = 1$ . It is shown as follows:

$$x = r;$$

$$x^2 = r^2 \text{ or } x \times r;$$

$$(x+r)(x-r) = x(x-r).$$

Cancelling the two quantities  $x - r$ , as their division is equal,—that is, they balance each other,—there is left

$$x + r = x;$$

$$x + x = x;$$

$$2x = x;$$

$$2 = 1$$

—the number 1 being understood before all single quantities.

**314.—What is the highest inhabited spot on the globe?**

The Buddhist cloister of Hanle in Thibet, where, at the elevation of 16,500 feet, the good monks, hav-

ing more than one half of the atmosphere below them, breathe the air attenuated more than one half of what the normal breath requires. Dogs can live here, as they can follow their masters to the greatest accessible elevation, and are the only animals that are man's companion in every part of the globe. Cats die at an elevation of 13,000 feet, even if they do have nine lives at the surface. Birds and insects are adapted to breathe

“The difficult air of the iced mountain-top.”

### 315.—Where is the fountain of the Incas?

Incas is the plural of Inca, a name given by the Indians of ancient Peru to their kings and princes of the blood. The fountain of the Incas is situated in a sheltered nook surrounded with terraces, upon which grow patches of corn (maize), with ears not longer than one's finger. The bath itself is a pool forty feet long, ten wide, and five deep, built of worked stones. Into this pour four jets of water, as large as a man's arm, from openings cut into the stones behind.

### 316.—Who wrote a book to prove that Solomon was the author of the “Iliad”?

Professor Joshua Barnes, of the University of Cambridge, England, in the reign of Queen Anne (1702 to 1714), who edited Homer, Anacreon, and Euripides, wrote a poem to prove this. His object was to raise money to publish his Homer. This

eminent scholar, an account of whom may be found in Disraeli's *Calamities of Authors*, died in abject poverty.

317.—What is the origin of the expression "He's a brick"?

Very few of the thousands who use this slang term know its origin or its primitive significance, according to which it is a grand thing to say of a man "He is a brick!" The word used in its original intent implies all that is brave, patriotic, and loyal. Plutarch in his life of Agesilaus, King of Sparta, tells us the meaning of the quaint and familiar expression: On a certain occasion an ambassador from Epirus, on a diplomatic mission, was shown by the king over his capital. The ambassador knew of the monarch's fame—knew that, though nominally only King of Sparta, he was ruler of Greece—and he had looked to see massive walls rearing aloft their embattled towers for the defence of the city, but he found nothing of the kind.

He marvelled much at this, and spoke of it to the king. "Sire," he said, "I have visited most of the principal towns, and I find no walls reared for defence. Why is this?" "Indeed, Sir Ambassador," replied Agesilaus, "thou canst not have looked carefully. Come with me to-morrow morning and I will show you the walls of Sparta." Accordingly, on the following morning, the king led his guest out upon the plain where his army was drawn up in full array, and, pointing proudly to the patriot

host, he said, "There thou beholdest the walls of Sparta—ten thousand men, and every man a brick."

**318.—Who is called "The Father of History"?**

Herodotus, the celebrated Greek historian, who was born in Halicarnassus, Asia Minor, about 484 B.C., and is supposed to have died in Thurii, Italy, about 420 B.C. He is said to have been exiled from his birth-place by the tyrant Lygdamis, and travelled in Greece, Africa, Asia, and Europe, noting the manners and customs of the people whom he visited, the scenery, cities, temples, etc. He returned home about 455, and assisted in expelling Lygdamis. He removed soon after to Athens, and occupied himself with the composition of his great work, which is comprised in nine books. Its principal subject is the internal struggles of the Greeks, but he has introduced narratives of the histories of the Persians, Medes, Egyptians, and other peoples. He is considered the most reliable of all ancient historians, the only drawback being his undue love for the marvellous, and for which he has been called "The Father of Lies." When he writes from his own observation he is truthful and accurate. His style is elegant and harmonious, and his book is prized as a rare composition as well as history.

**319.—What city was traversed diagonally by the Euphrates?**

Babylon. It is said that the city was twenty-five

miles square, the streets crossing each other at right angles and being placed one mile apart. Cyrus the Great turned the course of the river and then entered the city on its dry bed, surprising the inhabitants while engaged in their revelry (538 B.C.).

### 320.—Who was Edith Swansneck?

A beautiful girl, who loved Harold, King of England, and by whom she was loved in return. After the battle of Hastings, Oct. 1066, while the monks wandered over the battle-ground to find the dead body of their monarch, she discovered alone the despoiled and discrowned figure of her lover.

### 321.—What is meant by the phrase “a white elephant”?

It signifies that the individual to whom reference is made is in a very unhappy predicament. He has a white elephant on his hands. How? The original story is that the king of Siam, in gratitude to a peasant for saving his life, presented his brave subject with a white elephant—a royal gift from a kingly donor. The peasant was at once plunged into the depths of despair. To furnish the animal with food would place him and his family in absolute want. If the elephant died from a lack of sufficient nourishment, the peasant's life would be offered as a sacrifice. The end of this story is not related.



**322.—What was Fusetiere's objection?**

The French Academy, a body of forty famous and, for the most part, learned men,—the “forty immortals”—was at work upon a great dictionary of the French language. In the course of their task they came to the word “lobster.” After some discussion the following definition was almost agreed upon: “Lobster, a little red fish that walks backwards.”

The Secretary was about to write down this description when one of the academicians, Fusetière, said: “Gentlemen, the definition is no doubt a very clever one, but it is open to three objections. In the first place, the little animal in question is not a fish; in the second place, it is only red when boiled; in the third place, it walks straightforward, although it may not do so very rapidly.” Another definition was adopted.

**323.—When was the Heroic Age?**

This period of time, so called from the exploits of heroes, which are related in the myths, legends, and poems of Homer, extended from the earliest times to about 1100 B.C. From the *Iliad* we derive our records of the Trojan War, which occurred 1184 B.C. Venus, the goddess of love, promised Paris, the son of Priam, king of Troy, and Hecuba, that he should have for a wife the handsomest woman in the world, Helen, the consort of Menelaus, king of Sparta. In the absence of her hus

band, Paris carried Helen to his home in Troy, and to obtain her, the princes of Greece, under command of Agamemnon, a brother of the injured husband, undertook an expedition that resulted in the restoration of Helen and the destruction of Troy after a siege of ten years.

*W* 324.—How are the iron balls placed inside of sleigh-bells?

Before the bell is cast the ball is placed inside of the sand core which occupies the space inside of the bell. In casting, the hot metal burns the core so that it can be shaken out, leaving the ball inside.

325.—How is indigo obtained?

From a plant which grows in Asia, Africa, and South America. These plants are not exactly alike in these different countries, but they are all very pretty, with long, slender green leaves and rose-colored blossoms. The plant grows very tall, often as high as six feet. The coloring matter is found in the leaves, and is made apparent as the leaves dry. When the plant has arrived at the proper stage it is cut off (always in the morning) and cast into a sort of vat with other plants, and after being covered with water they are left to ferment. During this fermentation the indigo is deposited in the water. It has to go through several processes before it is ready for the market, and put up for sale in the convenient little boxes of the store

**326.—Who was known as Washington's Englishman?**

George Washington (1732-1799) at one time conceived the idea of letting his Mount Vernon estate out in farms to English or Scotch farmers, and communicated his plan to his friend and correspondent Sir John Sinclair, at whose instance an Englishman named Parkinson was induced to come over. The voyage took twelve weeks, and almost all the fine stock, worth thousands of dollars, which he brought with him died on the way. Poor Parkinson viewed the crudity of everything here with utter disgust, and was much incensed by Mrs. W. saying to him, "I am afraid, Mr. P., you've brought your fine pigs to a bad market." Of course he wrote a book anent his American experience, and his growls are amusing.

**327.—What was the origin of the slang phrase, "There's your mule"?**

General Henningsen, a Hungarian, was an officer in the Southern cause, and having fallen into disfavor with President Davis, lost his position in the army, and no entreaty could obtain his restoration. This so enraged Mrs. Henningsen that she told some of the President's friends that if she had been at the battle of Bosworth when King Richard cried "A horse! a horse! my kingdom for a horse!" she would have pointed to Jefferson Davis and said, "There's your mule." This saying became a by-word throughout the armies of the Confederacy.

328.—How did the word “luncheon” originate?

Our familiar name of *luncheon* is derived from the daily meal of the Spaniards at eleven o'clock, termed *once* or *l'once* (pronounced *l'onchey*).—From Ford's *Gatherings in Spain*.

329.—What is the origin of the word “Quiz”?

This word is said to have been devised by Daly, the actor and manager of a Dublin play-house. The origin of the word “queer” is said to be due to Quin, the actor. The two stories are exactly similar, and this coincidence may throw a doubt upon the authenticity of both accounts. Quin bet one hundred pounds with a nobleman, one evening (so the story goes), that by the next morning, at breakfast-time, there would be a word in most people's mouths that was never heard before. That night when the theatre had closed he hired the “supers” and others, whom he furnished with a good lump of chalk, and instructed them, one and all, to go through the principal streets of London and chalk on the flags the word “Q-U-E-E-R.” The next morning people were startled by seeing such an unusual sight. Some believed it was significant of danger—that a secret enemy was near, and this was his watchword: so the word went the rounds in a most amazing way. Quin, of course, won the wager. At the present time it is a common device by which the patent-medicine proprietor and others herald a

new "discovery," preparation, or manufactured article.

**330.—What was the name of Pilate's wife?**

*Procla.* Troubled by a dream, she sent word to her husband to have "nothing to do with that just man." Her name should be honored as the only person who sought to influence the decision of Pilate in favor of the accused prisoner on trial for his earthly life.

**331.—What were the "seven last words"?**

The seven last words on the cross, as gathered from the evangelists, were:

1. Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.
2. Verily I say unto thee, To-day shalt thou be with me in paradise.
3. Woman, behold thy son [to his mother], and behold thy mother [to the disciple].
4. Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani!
5. I thirst.
6. It is finished.
7. Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit.

**332.—What is the origin of the Easter custom of dyeing eggs?**

After the fasting-time of Lent, more rigidly kept formerly than now, the sun was thought to dance

on Easter morning. Bonfires were kindled and great "paschal tapers," weighing sometimes three hundred pounds, were lighted in churches on Easter Eve. In Christian countries, eggs were stained with brilliant dyes said to symbolize the Saviour's blood, and eaten for breakfast, or given as presents or kept as amulets. In some parts of Scotland young folks went out early on "Pasch Sunday" to look for wild-fowls' eggs for breakfast, and to find them foretold good luck.

The custom is not of Christian origin. The old Persians and Hindoos, at their feast of the Sun or solar New Year, in March, presented each other with colored eggs. The British Druids had a similar custom. The Jews used eggs in the feast of the Passover, and the Christians continued it at Easter, coincident in time at first with the Passover.

In the East, eggs are considered a great delicacy, and served up with fish and honey at entertainments. Doubtless the use of eggs in the spring was on account of their abundance when the "hens began to lay," and possibly it was symbolical of the revivification of nature in the joyful spring-time. From the Christian standpoint the feast with eggs has been considered as emblematic of the resurrection and a future life.

333. — Who was the "Heroine of 'Ivanhoe'?"

Rebecca Gratz died many years ago. In her younger days she resided with her parents in Phil-

adelphia. She had a warm friend, Miss Hoffman of New York, and the two girls were in the habit of paying periodical visits to each other in their respective cities. Miss Hoffman was the betrothed of Washington Irving (1789-1859), but before the marriage could take place consumption claimed the fair New York girl, and she succumbed to the disease, tenderly nursed on her death-bed by her friend Rebecca Gratz. Irving, who never recovered from the loss of his first and only love, naturally formed a warm friendship for his late sweetheart's other self, Rebecca. Miss Gratz was a woman of singularly pure thought and height of mind. She felt keenly the slight cast upon her race and creed, for in those days the Jewish disability laws still existed in England, and very few of the "chosen people" were admitted into the best American society. During Washington Irving's travels in Europe Miss Gratz and he were in constant correspondence. The American author was very warmly received by English writers. With Walter Scott he sojourned several weeks. At that time Scott had not avowed the authorship of the Waverley series of novels, but to Irving he confided his secret, and also told him that he (Scott) was at work on a new book, *Ivanhoe*, the plot of which the two authors discussed together, and particularly the character of the Jewess Scott was introducing. "What shall I call her?" asked Scott. "'Call her Rebecca,'" replied Irving, his thoughts wandering to the Rebecca of his friendship. Irving dwelt on the noble traits in

Miss Gratz's character to his friend, and especially drew attention to her steadfastness of creed and the grandeur but melancholy of her thoughts. Scott was filled with sympathy for her character. When *Ivanhoe* was eventually published Sir Walter sent one of the first copies to his American friend, with a long and affectionate letter. A line in it reads: "How does my 'Rebecca' fit in with your Rebecca?"

**334.—What is the story of the tragedy of Beatrice Cenci?**

She was a remarkably beautiful girl, who was born about 1583, and executed in September, 1599, when she was but sixteen years old. Her father, Francesco Cenci, subjected her and her step-mother to atrocious cruelties. Beatrice vainly appealed to Pope Clement VIII. for protection, and then she and her step-mother determined to rid themselves of their unnatural persecutor. On September 9, 1598, they drugged Francesco, and Beatrice introduced assassins into his room, where he was murdered while asleep. One of the murderers made a full confession of the homicide, implicating Beatrice, her step-mother, and two brothers as being parties to the crime. They were tried for murder, and all, save the younger brother, were found guilty and subsequently executed. To the last moment Beatrice displayed the most heroic courage, and her youth and beauty were so great that her execution caused a thrill of horror throughout Rome. The



celebrated painting of her, from which numerous engravings have been copied, is known as Guido's "masterpiece."

**335.—**What are the two words in pronouncing which not a single letter of them is sounded?

*Ewe* (you) and *aye* (I).

**336.—**What is the meaning of scamp?

The word means literally a fugitive from the field, one *qui ex campo fugit*.

**337.—**What is the legend of Bishop Hatto?

His name is associated with the "Mouse Tower" on the Rhine, upon which Robert Southey (1774–1843) has founded a ballad, though the story of his having been devoured by rats is thought to be of much later origin.

"They have whetted their teeth against the stones.  
And now they are picking the bishop's bones;  
They gnawed the flesh from every limb,  
For they were sent to do judgment on him."

**338.—**What stone fell at Adam's fall?

According to tradition, it was a precious stone in Paradise that fell to the earth at Adam's fall, and was then lost in the slime of the deluge till it was recovered by the angel Gabriel. It was originally a jacinth (hyacinth), of such extreme whiteness that

it dazzled people's eyes at the distance even of four days' journey, and only gradually became black as it now is from shame and sorrow for the sins of the world. But according to better opinion it was not merely the jacinth, but the actual guardian angel, who, having been sent to watch over Adam, was at his fall, and as a punishment for not having more vigilantly executed his trust, changed into a stone, and driven from Paradise, but destined to resume his angelic form when the days of the world are all numbered and finished.

**339.—When was the origin of the term Brother Jonathan?**

During the Revolutionary war, Jonathan Trumbull the elder was then Governor of the State of Connecticut, and was always ready to assist the struggling colonists. He was frequently consulted by Washington, who, placing the greatest reliance on his excellency's judgment, would say when any proposition was offered for devising means of defence, supplying the many wants of the army, etc., "We'll ask Brother Jonathan about it." The name has now become a designation for the whole country.

**-340.—How old is the Brahmin religion?**

Claimed by the Brahmins to be coeval with the creation of the world. It is certainly as old as the *Vedas*, supposed to have been written about 4000 years ago. Buddhism was introduced into China

from India about the commencement of the Christian era.

**341.—Why can we see our breath on a frosty morning?**

Because the cold air condenses the warm breath into a vapor.

**342.—What empire reaches nearly half round the globe?**

Russia has a continuous territory unparalleled by any other country in the world. Stretching from the Baltic to Behring Strait, it is a few hours' journey from Berlin on the one hand, and, on the other, almost touches the territory of the United States. Humboldt, to present it fairly to the imagination of his readers, had to go to the heavens for his parallel, for he compared its extent to that of the visible face of the moon.

**343.—Where were three bushels of gold rings gathered?**

At the battle of Cannæ (216 B.C.), in which eighty senators and fifty thousand Roman citizens perished, Hannibal's soldiers took this amount from the battle-field and the fingers of the dead knights. The consuls Varro and Emilius commanded the defeated army, the latter being killed.

**344.—When were bow-strings made of female hair?**

The heroism of the women of Carthage during

the last siege of that ill-fated city has never been excelled. Casting their golden ornaments into the furnace to be melted into implements of warfare, they at last cut off their long, flowing hair, the golden and bronze strands of which they wove into bow-strings for their fighting countrymen, brothers, husbands, sons, and lovers. The city was captured 146 B.C., and razed to the ground. Tunis now stands upon or near its site.

### 345.—Who is Old Nick?

Sir William Temple, in his *Essay on Poetry*, writes in regard to the old Runic names: "The remainders are woven into our very language. *Mara*, in old Runic, was a goblin that seized upon men asleep in their beds, and took from them all speech and motion. Old *Nicka* was a spirit that came to strangle people who fell into the water. *Bo* was a fierce Gothic captain, son of Odin, whose name was used by his soldiers when they would fight or surprise their enemies." Thus we have the origin of the names of one or more of the terms of the nursery.

### 346.—Where is there a boiling lake?

The discovery of a boiling lake in the Island of Dominica has excited much scientific interest, and investigations of the phenomenon are to be made by geologists. It appears that a company exploring the steep and forest-covered mountains behind the town of Roseau came upon this curiosity,

which is about twenty-five hundred feet above the sea-level, and two miles in circumference. On the wind clearing away for a moment the clouds of sulphurous steam with which the lake was covered, a mound of water was seen ten feet higher than the general level of the surface, caused by ebullition. The margin of the lake consists of beds of sulphur, and its overflowing found exit by a waterfall of great height.

**347.—By what six names is Bible history divided?**

Adam, Enoch, Abraham, Solomon, Christ, John. From these is obtained the following bit of Bible chronology:

1. From the time Adam was created until the time Enoch was translated was a thousand years.
2. From the time Enoch was translated until the time Abraham was born was a thousand years.
3. From the time Abraham was born until the time Solomon dedicated the Temple was a thousand years.
4. From the dedication of the Temple until the time Christ was born was a thousand years.
5. From the birth of Christ until the time John died was a hundred years.

Thus the Bible history of forty one hundred years is divided.

**348.—Why do the Jews worship on Saturday?**

The Jewish Sabbath is the seventh day of the week, corresponding with Saturday, and is ob-

served by them in commemoration of the creation and of their redemption from the bondage of the Egyptians. The Christian Sabbath, called the Lord's Day, and Sunday, is observed on the first day of the week,—identical with the Roman *dies solis*, day of the sun,—in commemoration of the resurrection of Christ from the dead, and the descent of the Holy Ghost. It dates from the earliest history of the Christian Church, and it is probable that the first Jewish Christians kept the Lord's day holy, while conforming also to their legal Sabbath or day of rest.

349.—What plant is known as “food of the gods”?

The cocoa (*Theobroma cacao*), whose name signifies this. It is a large bush, seldom exceeding fifteen feet in height, though very old specimens attain the height of thirty feet. It has large, oblong, taper-pointed leaves, which when young are rosy and very beautiful. The flowers are small, fragrant, yellowish, and hang in clusters on the trunk and larger branches. The fruit is about twelve inches long, varying, however, greatly in size, and about five broad: it is oblong, blunt, and is marked with ten elevated ribs running lengthwise, and is, when ripe, of a bright orange yellow, with a hard shell. From this is obtained a juice called *vinho da cacao*, or “wine of cocoa,” a most refreshing and delicious drink; it is slightly aromatic, and possesses a flavor especially its own.

**350.—What plant caused criminals to confess?**

According to Pliny, there is an Indian plant called *Achagemenis*, the root of which, when made into lozenges and swallowed in wine during the day, torments the guilty all night, and constrains them to confess their crime.

**351.—Why did the ancients prefer death to crossing over a field of beans?**

To pass over such a field was forbidden in the Orient from very ancient times. This is supposed to have resulted from certain mystic properties being attributed to them, and from their being used in incantations and other occult ceremonies. They were frequently used as ballots, the white for the affirmative and the black for the negative. Ovid gives a description of an important domestic ceremony, in which the master of the family, after carefully washing his hands three times, throws a quantity of black beans over his head nine times, exclaiming, "I redeem myself and family by these beans." The exact object of this ceremony is not made clear. Pythagoras urged abstinence from beans, believing their use would produce sensuality and grossness; the Egyptian priests objected to their use on like grounds, and believed that even the sight of beans rendered one unclean; no one who even cultivated the plant was permitted to approach a temple or shrine until they had performed certain stringent ablutions,

Qut'ami, the Babylonian, who lived 2000 B.C., writes in his treatise on *Nabothian Agriculture*: "In the sayings of the ancients, it is said that a person who slept over night in a field among bean-pods loses his mind for forty days." The tyrant Dionysius offered honors and fortune to Myllias the Pythagorean if he would tell why the followers of his master would die rather than trample over a field of *beans*. Myllias replied that as his sect preferred death to treading on beans, so he would rather tread on them than gratify the curiosity of Dionysius. The tyrant then tried to get the reason from the wife of Myllias, named Tymichia, but she bit off her tongue and spit it in his face, lest in the torture he inflicted she should betray the secret.

**352.—When was the massacre of the Mamelukes?**

In 1811, at the citadel in Cairo, Egypt. The Mamelukes had risen from the position of slaves to that of sultans. These nobles had helped Mohammed Ali to the Pashalik, but it is supposed that they had changed their minds, and were plotting to destroy him. At all events, having used them as the ladder of his ambition, he found it expedient to get rid of them. Inviting them to be present when a Pasha was to be invested with some military command, four hundred and seventy of these magnificent beings accordingly rode up in great state, but when they turned to depart they found the gates closed, and from every corner a



murderous fire of musketry rained upon them. From this horrible carnage one alone escaped, Aryn Bey, who forced his horse to leap the rampart, a fall of forty feet, lighting upon a heap of rubbish, the animal being killed.

353.—What is the origin of the word "dun"?

It has been thought by some to come from the French, in which *donnez* signifies *give me*, implying a demand of something due; but it is said that the true origin of this expression owes its birth to one Joe Dun, a famous bailiff of the town of Lincoln, England, who lived in the days of Henry VII., and was so extremely active, and so dexterous in the management of his rough business, that it became a proverb. When a man refused to pay his debt the people said, "Why don't you *Dun* him?"—that is, Why don't you send *Dun* to arrest him?

354.—Where is the statue of Dai Butzu?

In the village of Kamakura, Japan. It is fifty feet high and ninety-six feet in circumference, the face being eight and a half feet in length. The knee is thirty-eight feet in diameter, and the thumb three and a half feet in circumference. The god is sitting on a pedestal with his legs crossed in front of him and his hands clasped. It was cast in the year 1252, at the desire of one of the "Shoguns," or native governors. The statue is hollow, with ladders leading into the dome-like head and the inside

fitted up as a temple, with numerous little statues arranged around its sides. Some years ago three Americans perched themselves upon one of the god's thumb-nails, and had their picture taken by the native photographer.

**355.—What noted incident occurred in 1140?**

Conrad III., the first emperor under the Hohenstaufen dynasty, in 1138 declared war against Guelphus, duke of Bavaria, and laid siege to the city of Weinsburg, Germany. The women, finding that the town could not possibly maintain a resistance very long, petitioned the emperor that they might be allowed to depart out of it, carrying their "dearest jewels." Conrad, knowing that they could not convey away many of their effects, granted their request, when to his great surprise the women came out of the place bearing their husbands on their backs. The emperor was so moved at the sight that he burst into tears, and after having extolled the women for their conjugal affection, gave the men to their wives, and received the duke into his favor.

**356.—Where can a man jump sixty feet in height?**

The asteroids, which, it has been suggested, may be fragments of a larger planet that some believe to have originally revolved between Mars and Jupiter, and by some tremendous catastrophe to have burst

into fragments, are comparatively so diminutive that the force of gravity on their surfaces must be very small. A man placed on one of them would spring with ease sixty feet high, and sustain no greater shock in his descent than he does on the earth from leaping a yard.

### 357.—What is the fable of Orion?

This ancient legend of the giant-hunter, though often told, will bear repeating. He was the son of a Boeotian peasant, and was able to walk upon the surface of the sea. No other mortal equalled him in strength and stature. Merope, the daughter of Œnopion, king of Chios, won his love, and to show his preference he conquered the wild beasts of the island and offered the fruits of the chase to her; but Œnopion (like many stern parents of the present day) would not give his consent to the marriage, and taking advantage of a time when the mighty hero lay asleep upon the seashore, he ordered one of his servants to put out Orion's eyes. The unfortunate man awoke to find himself blind, but hearing the sound of a Cyclop's hammer, made his way to the forge of Vulcan, and was guided by one of the workmen to a spot where the rising sun was best viewed. Turning his face to the glowing luminary he immediately recovered his sight. After this last happy circumstance Orion won the favor of Diana, and thereby excited the dislike of her brother Apollo. One day while Orion was taking a walk for pleasure in the sea, all but his

head being immersed in the water, the wicked god drew his sister's attention to the object moving along the waves, and maliciously expressed a doubt as to her power to pierce it with an arrow. The pride of the goddess of the unerring bow was aroused and the swift messenger of death pierced the brain of the unfortunate hero, whose dead body was washed upon the shore, to be lamented over by the grief-stricken Diana. As some recompense for the deed she had unintentionally committed, she placed the mighty hero in the heavens as a constellation, and there we still behold him, with girdle, sword, lion's skin, and club.

### 358.—How are pens slit?

The smallest circular saw in practical use is a disk about the size of a five-cent piece, being employed for cutting slits in gold pens. They are about as thick as ordinary paper, and make four hundred revolutions a minute, this high speed keeping them rigid, notwithstanding their extreme thinness.

### 359.—Who was known as "The Little Corporal"?

This was a term of endearment applied to Napoleon Bonaparte (1769-1821) by the French army. From the time of his dispersion of the National Guard, October 4, 1796, to his final defeat at Waterloo, June 18, 1815, he was successively engaged in establishing himself as emperor of the French;

crowning his brothers, Joseph king of Naples, and Louis, king of Holland; subduing Italy; humbling Austria; conquering Spain; and defeating the allied armies of Russia, Prussia, and England.

360.—What is the highest ascent ever made in a balloon?

On September 5, 1862, Mr. James Glaisher, accompanied by Mr. Coxwell, made an ascent for scientific purposes from Wolverhampton, England. Their balloon reached the extraordinary height of seven miles from the earth. At the distance of five and three fourths miles Mr. Glaisher became insensible. Mr. Coxwell eventually lost the use of his hand, but was able to pull the valve-cord with his teeth, and so they descended with safety. Mr. Coxwell in the course of his experience has made nearly six hundred successful ascents.

361.—What is the meaning of the proverb "Hell is paved with good intentions"?

This is said to be derived from a Spanish saying. "Hell," writes George Herbert (1593-1633), "is full of good meanings and wishes."—*Jacula Prudentum*, p. 11, ed. 1631. The authentic and emphatical figure in the saying is, The *road* to hell is paved with "good intentions;" and it was uttered by the "stern old divine," whoever he may be, as a warning not to let "good intentions" miscarry for want of being realized at the time and upon the spot.

The moral, however, is manifestly this, that people may be going the downward path with the best intentions in the world, substituting all the while *well-meaning* for *well-doing*.

**362.—Have serpents teeth ?**

Yes, and they are pointed, smooth, and arched towards the throat. Most of the venomous ones have, however, in place of teeth in the upper jaw, two fangs, through which the poison is ejected to the bottom of the wound.

**363.—What ex-President of the United States served nine terms in the House of Representatives ?**

John Quincy Adams (1767–1848). Taken ill while on duty, he was removed to his residence, dying a few hours afterward in Washington city.

**364.—Who was Marco Bozzaris ?**

He was of Greek descent, born in 1789, and was early engaged in revolutionary movements. His most brilliant exploit is the one described in Halleck's poem *Marco Bozzaris*, in which, with five hundred Suliotes, at midnight on August 20, 1823, he surprised a Turkish army of twenty thousand men, fought his way to the tent of the commander-in-chief, and was killed by a random shot, while making the Pasha a prisoner. The Suliotes were victorious, however.

**365.—Where is the “city of the Violet Crown”?**

This phrase is applied to the city of Athens, Greece, the origin of the name being found in the writings of Pindar. It probably has reference to the situation of the Greek capital in the central plain of Attica, surrounded by hills or lofty mountains on every side where it opens to the sea, and to the gorgeous rosy and purple tints in which they are bathed by the rising and setting sun.

**366.—Why has Rhode Island two capitals?**

This State formerly consisted of two settlements, known respectively as Providence and Rhode Island, the governments of which were united by a patent obtained by Roger Williams in 1643, which remained in force until 1663, when a charter was obtained from Charles II. (died 1686), incorporating the colony of “Rhode Island and Providence Plantations,” which was the only constitution of government until 1842. In the colonial times the Assembly met alternately at Newport and Providence, and when the new constitution was adopted the two capitals were retained, the Legislature holding its regular session in Newport, commencing in May, and a session by adjournment in Providence.

**367.—Where is Captain Kidd’s “Punch Bowl”?**

On the western shores of Long Island. William

Kidd was sent out under admiralty orders to suppress piracy. King William was to receive one tenth of the profits of the cruise, and Governor Bellamont of New York eight tenths, leaving but one tenth for himself. This arrangement proving unprofitable, he commenced privateering on his own account. For two years he was the terror of the seas, and then, with wonderful daring, appearing publicly on the streets of Boston, was seized, sent to England in chains, tried, convicted, and hanged in 1791. Seventy thousand dollars' worth of treasure, which he had buried on Gardiner's Island, was recovered by Bellamont. Traditions are numerous that he buried gold, precious stones, and ornaments at Block Island, and at several places along the Massachusetts coast. For—

“ Ever since the days of Captain Kidd,  
The Yankees think there's money hid.”

### 368.—Where is the “ King of Bells” ?

The *Tzar* (or *Czar*) *Kolokol*, the Russian signification for this term, is the largest bell in the world, and lies at the foot of the Kremlin palace in Moscow. Its circumference at the bottom is nearly 68 feet, and its height is more than 21 feet. In its stoutest part it is 23 inches thick, and its weight has been computed to be 443,772 pounds. The length of the clapper is 14 feet. It cost £365,000. It has never been hung, and was probably cast (in 1734) in the deep pit on the spot where it now stands. A piece of the bell is broken off. The fracture is sup-



posed to have been occasioned by water having been thrown upon it when heated when the building erected over it was on fire. It was buried under ground for many years, but in 1837 the Emperor had it raised and set on a granite wall.

### 369.—Does the whale spout?

Close observers maintain that the whale in breathing never spouts water from the nostrils, as the ordinary pictures represent. When it rises to the surface, a foot or more of water over the head is blown away by the breath escaping from the lungs. This is followed by the vast body of air expelled, surcharged with moisture hot from the lungs, which, cooling, changes to vapor, and in its circling descent resembles a shower of spray.

### 370.—Where is the next to the largest diamond in the world?

It is said to exist among the crown-jewels of Portugal, having been a gift to the present king from his uncle, the Emperor of Brazil, in whose dominions this magnificent gem was discovered. It is four times the size of the Koh-i-noor, and its value has been variously estimated at from fifteen million to sixteen million dollars, its enormous size rendering it unique in the history of the great jewels of the world. It was found in a negro's hut, where it had long served as a plaything for the children of the family. It was seen by chance one day by a slave who had worked for some years in the

diamond-mines of the country, and after due examination he pronounced the pretty stone to be a colossal diamond. The emperor sent a regiment of cavalry to escort the priceless jewel to his capital. Oddly enough no diamonds were ever found before or since the discovery of this unique specimen in the neighborhood of the spot from whence it came, which was a small mountain streamlet flowing over a pebbly bed. The old negro who was its original possessor had taken a quantity of gravel from the bed of the brook to spread before his door, and the children, attracted by the translucency and regular form of the diamond, had picked it out of the mass to play with. It is of oval shape and of perfect water, but its abnormal size will of course prevent its ever being used for an ornament.

371.—Who is the oldest woman in the world?

At Aubernie-en-Royans, France, may be seen an old woman living in a hut in a narrow street, who was born in the year 1760. She has no infirmity except slight deafness, being in full possession of her mental faculties. Serving as a *cantinière* under the First Empire, she had two sons killed at the battle of Friedland and in Spain. She is supported entirely on the alms given her by visitors, who go from a great distance to see her as an object of curiosity, and her neighbors help her to do the household work. Her food consists almost entirely

of soup made with bread, to which is added a little wine and sometimes a little brandy. Dr. Bonne, the local practitioner, states that she is never ill. Her skin is like parchment, but she stands comparatively straight.

**372.—Where was the glorious island of Atlantis?**

Plato, who gave the first account of it, states that he obtained his information from the priests of Egypt. The island was represented to be larger than Asia and Africa, as they were then known, and beyond it was a large continent. Nine thousand years before the days of Plato this island was thickly inhabited, said to have ten divisions with populous cities, and held control over all Africa, including Egypt, and also a large portion of Europe. A violent earthquake, which lasted for twenty-four hours, accompanied by inundations of the sea, caused the island to sink, and for a long time subsequent to this the ocean was impassable in this region by reason of drift and shoals. If such an island existed, the West Indies may possibly be the higher portions of this lost country, while the continent beyond is naturally America.

**373.—What noted skulls are to be seen in a British museum?**

The skull of Jonathan Swift (1667-1745), the author of *Voyages of Gulliver*, and that of *Stella*, (Esther Johnson), are said to have been found in a

small box in his grave at the Cathedral of St. Patrick's, Dublin, and from thence taken to a museum.

**374.—For what battle was "Betty Stark" the watchword?**

The speech popularly attributed to General John Stark on going into the battle of Bennington, August 16, 1777, was, "Boys, we hold that field to-night, or Mollie Stark's a widow!" His wife, the daughter of Caleb Page of Starkstown, now Dunbarton, N. H., was named Elizabeth, and though there is much discussion about the matter, it is probable that the legend is correctly given by the Rev. J. P. Rodman in his centennial poem of the *Battle of Bennington*:

"The morning came—there stood the foe;  
Stark eyed them as they stood;  
Few words he spoke—'twas not a time  
For moralizing mood:  
'See there the enemy, my boys!  
Now, strong in valor's might,  
Beat them, or Betty Stark will sleep  
In widowhood to-night.' "

**375.—Why is it darker from about half-past one to about half-past three in the morning, than either before or after?**

The duration of twilight varies according to the season, latitude, and condition of the atmosphere. Therefore there can be no fixed time given for its close at night and beginning in the morning, or as

it is called, the duration of darkness. To this general query there can only be given the general answer, that *the period named is supposed to measure the period between the end and the beginning of twilight.*

376.—Who said “Give me a place to stand, and I will move the world”?

Archimedes, born 287 B.C., who was a native of Syracuse, and the most famous mathematician, astronomer, and inventor of modern times. His theory of the lever was the foundation of statics. He said, “With the aid of levers, give me a place, etc.” The inventor of a vessel moved by a screw, the water-screw for pumping out ships and raising water to high ground, he also solved, while bathing, the famous problem as to finding the relative amounts of gold and silver in the crown of Hiero, and, in the excess of his joy, ran out of the bath into the streets naked, shouting *Eureka!* (“I have found it.”) His tomb was found a long time after his death by Cicero, and recognized by the inscription of the sphere within the cylinder, in memory of his discovery that the solid contents of a sphere are just two thirds of that of the circumscribing cylinder.

377.—How did the massacre of St. Bartholomew derive its name?

Because it occurred on St. Bartholomew's Eve, August 24, 1572. The dreadful carnage began up-

on the prearranged signal of the ringing of the church-bell of St. Germain l'Auxerrois, opposite the palace, in Paris. The victims in the city were estimated as high as ten thousand. By royal order of Charles IX., the massacre was extended to the provinces, where thirty thousand more were slain, the aggregate being placed much higher by some authorities.

**378.—Of what President was it said that “he could not be kicked into a fight”?**

James Madison (1751-1836), whose disposition was very pacific, hesitated so long about making a declaration of war against Great Britain in 1812, that one of the Federalists stated in Congress his opinion of the President in the expression that has since passed into a proverb. English papers also mockingly made the same declaration through their columns.

**379.—What was the fate of the Indian chief Logan?**

While in a state of intoxication, and maddened frenzy, near Detroit, in 1780, he felled his wife to the ground. Believing her dead, he fled to the wilderness, but was overtaken by a troop of Indian men, women, and children between Detroit and Sandusky. Hardly sobered, he imagined that the penalty of his crime was about to be inflicted by a relative, and being well armed, he declared that he would kill the whole party. In defence his nephew,

*Tod-kah-dohs*, shot him on the spot, inflicting a mortal wound. His wife recovered from the blow.

**380.—For what is the Cassiquiare River remarkable?**

For flowing in two different directions. This stream is in the southern part of Venezuela, S. A., and connects the Orinoco River with the Rio Negro, a branch of the Amazon. The country is so level that a rise or fall of the Orinoco governs the course of the Cassiquiare, which flows during a part of the year into the Amazon, and at other times in an opposite direction.

**381.—What place is termed the “Gibraltar of America”?**

This is a name given to the city of Quebec, which from its position, and natural and artificial means of defence, is perhaps the most strongly fortified city in America.

**382.—What American statesman was called the Political Meteor of Congress?**

John Randolph of Virginia, who was noted for his skill in debate. When speaking, he generally pointed toward the object of his invective with his long bony fingers, at times wildly gesticulating. “For thirty years,” writes Benton, “he was the Political Meteor of Congress.”

383.—Who stopped to kiss a slave-girl on his way to execution?

John Brown of Ossawatimie, as he was generally called, on the morning of December 2, 1859, at Charlestown, Virginia.

384.—When did John Fitch invent the steamboat?

He conceived the idea while living in Philadelphia in 1784, twenty-three years before Fulton started *his* boat, the *Clermont*. Fitch went ahead with his idea, petitioned Congress in 1785 for aid to build his vessel, and submitted his model to the American Philosophical Society of Philadelphia. Receiving some assistance from private individuals, he built a boat, the *Perseverance*, and had it in actual operation on the Delaware river, on the first of May, 1787. His engine was the first double-acting condensing engine, transmitting power by means of cranks, ever constructed. The boat made several trips up and down the river, but owing to the difficulty of keeping the piston tight against the comparatively rough interior surface of the cylinder, the rate was very slow—only three miles an hour. Fitch then improved it so that in 1788 it made eight miles an hour. It was then put into regular use on the river; but the inventor was poor, and destined always to bitter trials and disappointments, and at last died in obscurity in Kentucky from a dose of opium.



**385.—**Why does the river Nile grow smaller as it approaches the sea?

A feature peculiar to this river of Egypt is that from its junction with the Atbara to its mouth, a distance of more than 1500 miles, it receives no affluents whatever, and this fact, together with the burning sun and scarcely less burning sands of Nubia, causing an immense evaporation, produces this phenomenon.

**386.—**What governs the time for Easter Sunday?

The question was settled by Constantine, who brought it in the year 325 before the Council of Nice, when Easter was authoritatively declared for the whole Church to be always the first Sunday after the full moon, which occurs on or next after March 21st, and if the full moon happens on a Sunday, Easter is to be the Sunday following. By this arrangement Easter Day may come as early as March 22 or as late as April 25th.

**387.—**What was the wonderful stratagem of the Esquimaux?

Dr. I. I. Hayes, the famous Arctic explorer, in his book entitled *The Land of Desolation*, states that to destroy the last settlement of the Northmen in Greenland "the savages had recourse to a stratagem worthy to be compared with the celebrated wooden horse of Troy." Over an immense raft of boats they constructed an irregular scaffolding, and

covered it with white seal-skins to make it look like an iceberg. Filled with armed men, it floated down the fiord. It was seen by the sentinels and other people of the settlement, but was supposed by them to be nothing but a harmless mass of ice, till it was run aground near the church. Then the savages rushed out of it, slaughtered the inhabitants, and destroyed the settlement.

388.—What present was given to the discoverer of the New World?

Columbus agreed to give a silk waistcoat besides the royal pension of \$30 to the one who first discovered land.

389.—Where is the "Land o' Cakes"?

This name has been given to Scotland. Burns makes allusion to that country in *Verses on Captain Grose's Peregrinations through Scotland, collecting Antiquities of that kingdom* :

"Hear, land o' cakes, and brither Scots."

390.—What is the meaning of "Plerian" in Pope's famous line, "Drink deep or taste not the Plerian spring"?

Pieria was a region of Macedonia directly north of Thessaly, and extending along the Thermaic Gulf. It forms one of the most interesting parts of modern Turkey, in consideration of the traditions to which it has given birth as being the first

seat of the Muses, and the birthplace of Orpheus. Poets that drank from its waters were said to be inspired.

**391. — What was the "Bottle Conspiracy"?**

A name popularly given to a riot which took place at the theatre in Dublin, December 14, 1822, directed against the Marquis of Wellesley, the Lord Lieutenant.

**392. — What became of the Hanging Gardens of Babylon?**

On the east side of the river stood the buildings of the New Babylonian period, among which was this wonderful piece of workmanship. Their ruins may be recognized in the mound called El-Kasr. The city suffered greatly from the Persian conquest; then it revolted under Darius I., and after a siege of two years was recaptured and the outer walls were demolished. The "gardens" were destroyed by Alexander the Great when he took possession of the city.

**393. — What was the real name of the Indian maiden Pocahontas?**

Powhatan's tribe had a superstition that a person whose real name was unknown would not and could not be injured. They therefore told the whites that *Matoaka's* name was Pocahontas. After marriage her name was Rolfe, and in England she was known as Lady Rebecca.

**394.—Under what peculiar circumstances did Amurath meet his death?**

Amurath, the ruler of the Ottoman Empire, invaded Europe in 1360, conquered Roumania, and made Adrianople (built by the Roman Emperor Adrian) his capital; and before long the fields and valleys of Bulgaria, and the colder regions of Servia and Bosnia, fell under this tide of conquest. It was in the great battle of Rossova that the Servian prince and all his principal nobles were killed. After the battle, Amurath, accompanied by his vizier, went over the field, and as he gazed on the upturned faces of the dead around him, he could not help remarking how young they looked. "Yes," said the Vizier; "had they been older, they would have been wiser than to oppose your arms." At that very moment a Servian soldier started from amongst the dead and plunged his dagger into the conqueror's breast. The wound was mortal, and Amurath's career of victory was at an end.

**395.—Who said "I would sooner be right than President"?**

Henry Clay, "the silver-tongued orator" of Kentucky. When his celebrated "Compromise Bill" (1833) was adopted by the Senate he was importuned not to take the course he did, and was assured that it would lessen his chances for the presidency. He nobly replied in these memorable words. His exact phraseology is generally given, however, in

the words of that grammatical quibble: "*I had rather be,*" etc.

396.—When were silver bullets fired into an American camp?

When relief was demanded by the garrison of Fort Schuyler, in New York, in the month of August, 1777, jealousy had created secret enemies for General Philip Schuyler (1733–1804), and he found much difficulty in collecting a force for the hazardous enterprise. He was even charged with being associated with St. Clair in preliminary acts of treason about the time the latter evacuated Ticonderoga and for which he was court-martialed. The absurd story was told—for Schuyler was one of the purest and bravest officers among the patriots—that they had been paid for their treason by the enemy in *silver bullets* fired from Burgoyne's guns into the American camp.

397.—How did man obtain the use of language?

The Esthonian legend of the kettle of boiling water which "the aged one" placed on the fire, and from the hissing and boiling of which the various nations learned their languages and dialects, mythically represents the Kesselberg, with its crests enveloped in the clouds of summer steam, which they regarded as the throne of the thunder-god; and the languages which it distributes are the roll-

ing echoes of thunder and lightning, storm and rain. They have another and still more beautiful legend, of a similar character, to explain the origin of Long or Festal speech. The god of song, Wau-nemunne, descended on the Domberg, on which stands a sacred wood, and there played and sang. All creatures were invited to listen, and they each learned some fragment of the celestial sound; the listening wood learned its rustling, the stream its roar; the wind caught and learned to re-echo the shrillest tones, and the birds the prelude of the song. The fish stuck up their heads as far as the eyes out of the water, but left their ears under water; they saw the movements of the god's mouth, and imitated them, but remained dumb. Man only grasped it all; and therefore his song pierces into the depths of the heart, and upwards to the dwellings of the gods.

398.—What is the origin of the word "minister"?

The hall of the School of Equity at Poitiers, France, where the institutes were read, was called *La Ministerie*. Florimond de Remond (book vii. ch. 11), writing of Albert Babinot, one of the first disciples of Calvin, after having stated he was called "the *good man*," adds, that because he had been a student of the institutes at this *Ministerie*, Calvin and others styled him *Mr. Minister*; from whence, afterward, *Calvin* took occasion to give the name of MINISTERS to the pastors of his church.

**399.—Who was the brother of Goliath?**

According to the Rabbinical tales, among the vast collection of stories, apologues, and jests to be found in the TALMUD, is one of a dangerous and ridiculous adventure of King David by which he was taken prisoner by Ishbi, the brother of the Philistine giant. Abishai comes to the rescue of the king, and they find no difficulty in getting rid of Ishbi.

**400.—Why was the "Execration on Vulcan" written?**

Ben Jonson (1574-1637), the author of this work, wrote it after the fruits of twenty years' study had been consumed in one short hour. Our literature suffered, for among some works of imagination there were many philosophical collections, a commentary on the poetics, a complete critical grammar, a life of Henry V., his journey into Scotland, (with all his adventures in that poetical pilgrimage), and a poem on the ladies of Great Britain, What a catalogue of losses!

**401.—Who wrote a "History of the World" while confined in prison?**

Sir Walter Raleigh (1552-1618), the courtier, soldier, adventurer, and poet, is the author of an unfinished *History*, the work of eleven years' imprisonment. It was written for the use of Prince Henry, son of James I., as he and Dallington, who also wrote *Aphorisms* for the same prince, have

told us; the prince looked over the manuscript. Of Raleigh, it is observed, to employ the language of Hume, "They were struck with the extensive genius of the man, who, being educated amidst naval and military enterprises, had surpassed in the pursuits of literature, even those of the most recluse and sedentary lives; and they admired his unbroken magnanimity, which, at his age and under his circumstances, could engage him to undertake and execute so great a work as his *History of the World*. He was assisted in this great work by the learning of several eminent persons—a circumstance which has not usually been noticed.

402.—What stratagem is known as the "wit's device"?

That of Rabelais (1483-1533), the celebrated French author and satirist, who at one time while on a journey found himself some distance from Paris without any money in his pocket. Desiring to return to Paris he contrived the following plan: Procuring a quantity of brick-dust, he made it up into parcels, which he labelled "Poison for the King" and "Poison for the Dauphin," and hid them where it was certain they would be found. The landlord discovered them, and was filled with horror. Without a moment's delay he sent word to the authorities. Down came a special messenger and guards, and Rabelais was borne off to Paris at the public expense. Upon his arrival at court, he was at once recognized, and as the chemists



found no poison lurking in the packages he was set at liberty.

**403.—Who were the literary impostors of the eighteenth century?**

James Macpherson (1738–1796) pretended to have accumulated, in his travels through the Highlands of Scotland, an immense mass of fragments of ancient poetry composed in the Gaelic or Erse dialect, common to that country and Ireland, which he published under the title of their reputed author, *Ossian*. Thomas Chatterton (1752–1770), “the marvellous boy,” deceived nearly all the scholars of his age by his imitations of Old English poetry. William Henry Ireland (1777–1835) indulged in Shakespearian forgeries, among which was a play entitled *Vortigern*, in which John Kemble acted in 1795.

**404.—Can the chameleon change its color?**

Many of the stories current about the chameleon's change of color are doubtless fabulous; yet it can become at pleasure yellow, green, or black. It is said that in the skin there is a network of minute ducts, connecting with pigment-vesicles on the under surface, which contain the coloring liquid. The tint of the animal depends on the amount of this liquid injected into the ducts. The process seems somewhat analogous to that of blushing in the human species. Another remarkable

feature of this animal is that each eye can move independently of the other: one may look up while the other looks down.

405.—Where is the longest bridge in the world?

At Lagang, China, over an arm of the China Sea. It is five miles in length, built entirely of stone, has three hundred arches, seventy feet high, and a roadway seventy feet wide. The parapet is a balustrade, and each of the pillars, which are seventy feet apart, supports a pedestal, on which is placed a lion twenty-one feet long, made of one block of marble.

406.—What is the story of the fig-tree rumine of the Romans?

The goddess *Rumina* was the protectress of nursing children. The Romans worshipped her in a temple built near a fig-tree, under which, it is said, a she-wolf nursed Romulus and Remus. 773 B.C.

407.—What became of the lover of Jane McCrea?

Lieutenant Jones purchased the scalp, with its long flowing tresses, of his betrothed, and tendered his resignation, which not being accepted he deserted and went to Canada, where he lived to be an old man, dying about 1835 or 1840. The death of Jenny was a heavy blow, from the results of which he never recovered. In youth he was exceedingly gay

and garrulous, but after that terrible event he was melancholy and taciturn. He never married, and avoided society as much as his business pursuits would admit. Toward the close of July in every year when the anniversary of the tragedy (July 27, 1777) approached he would shut himself in his room and refuse to see any one. At all times his friends avoided any reference to the Revolution, in his presence.

**408.—When was the art of printing invented?**

Block-printing was invented by the Chinese about 593. Movable types were made in the tenth century. 1423 is the year of the earliest dated print, known as "the St. Christopher print." It consisted of a single engraved page with a few lines of engraved letters. Laurenz Jansen Coster of Haarlem printed about 1438 a book of images and letters with blocks. In 1442 John Faust printed at Mentz the *Tractatus Petri Hispani*. John Gutenberg, in his rude printing-office at Mentz, first used *movable* types of wood or metal, and printed the earliest edition of the Bible, 1450-55. The facility of Peter Schœffer, the scribe, rendered him valuable to Gutenberg, and it was *he* who first cast metal in moulds to form type.

**409.—What animal can breathe through the end of a broken bone.**

Respiration in birds takes place not only in the

lungs, but also in the substance of the other organs; the air penetrating into the interior of the bones and feathers, sometimes even to the toes. So complete is this second process, that it is said *a bird will breathe through the end of a broken bone when the windpipe is tied.*

#### 410.—Where was Tenochtitlan?

This city was founded about the year 1210, and was afterward called Mexico, which signifies *the place of Mexitli*, the Aztec god of war. The present capital of Mexico is upon the site of that ancient city. The Aztecs at that time were settled in Lower California, and were divided into six tribes. The Mexican tribe wandered off southward, subdued the Toltecs,—from whom they learned many of the useful arts, painting, sculpture, building, and a higher and more refined degree of civilization,—and founded the city around which the whole Aztec nation subsequently gathered.

#### 411.—What became of Meninsky's Persian dictionary?

This famous work met with a sad fate. Its excessive rarity is owing to the siege of Vienna by the Turks: a bomb fell on the author's house, and consumed the principal part of his indefatigable labors. There are few sets of this high-priced work which do not bear evident proofs of the bomb; while many parts are stained with the water used to quench the flames.

**412.—Who was flogged for kissing his wife?**

During the early days of Puritanism in the old Bay State a sea-captain who had just returned from a long voyage was obliged to undergo a public flogging for kissing his wife in the street, where she had come down to the wharf to meet him, the statute law declaring such punishment for this open osculatory demonstration.

**413.—Who believed the Indians to be the Ten Lost Tribes of Israel?**

John Eliot, the apostle of the Indians, who translated the Bible into the language of these "native Americans." Elias Boudinot (1740-1821) was the author of the *Star in the West*, a work intended to prove that the American Indians are the Ten Lost Tribes.

**414.—What is the derivation of the phrase "Uncle Sam"?**

Immediately after the declaration of war with England, in 1812, Elbert Anderson of New York, then a contractor, visited Troy, where he purchased a large quantity of provisions. The inspectors of the articles of that place were Ebenezer and Samuel Wilson. The latter gentleman (universally known as Uncle Sam) generally superintended in person a large number of workmen, who on this occasion were employed in overhauling the provisions purchased by the contractor. The casks were marked

"E. A.—U. S." Their inspection fell to the lot of a facetious fellow, who, on being asked the meaning of the mark, said he did not know, unless it meant *Elbert Anderson* and *Uncle Sam*, alluding to *Uncle Sam Wilson*. The joke took among the workmen, and passed currently through the country and in the army, and Uncle Sam, when present, was often rallied by them on the increasing extent of his possessions. He died in Troy in 1853, at the age of eighty-eight years.

415.—What occasioned the peculiar boundary of south-east Missouri?

It is stated that the inhabitants of New Madrid,—a section then covering several square miles,—upon the division of the boundaries of Missouri and Arkansas in 1836, made application to the legislature of the former State to be retained within its boundaries, and this application was granted. It is also possible that the swampy and almost impassable condition of the land there at the time of the survey may account for it.

416.—When did a rain-storm prevent a battle?

While the British were on their march to Philadelphia, which they occupied a few days later, Washington gave pursuit. The two armies met, and were on the point of engaging when a violent rain-storm prevented. This was on September 16, 1777.

**417.—When did a fog save the American army?**

After the disastrous defeat in the battle of Long Island, Washington, favored by a fog, in a skilful manœuvre succeeded in retreating with his shattered force across the river to New York. Tradition tells us how the British camp became aware of this stolen march. Near the ferry resided a lady, whose husband, suspected of Tory proclivities, had been removed to the interior of New Jersey. Upon seeing the embarkation of the first detachment of the American army, from a feeling of loyalty or revenge she sent off a black servant to inform the first British officer he could find of what was going on. The negro succeeded in passing the American sentinels, but arrived at a Hessian outpost, where, not being able to make himself understood, he was put under guard as a suspicious person. There he was detained until near daybreak, when an officer visiting the post examined him, and was astounded at his story. An alarm was given at once, and the troops were called to arms; but it was too late, for the rear boats of the retreating army were half way across the river.

**418.—Who was the soldier that killed General Fraser?**

The name of the rifleman that shot the British general killed in the second battle of Stillwater (sometimes called the battle of Saratoga), on October 7, 1777, was Timothy Murphy. He took "sure

aim" from a small tree in which he was posted, and saw Fraser fall on the discharge of his rifle. The general told his friends before he died that he saw the man who shot him, and that he was in a tree. Murphy afterward accompanied General Sullivan in his expedition against the Indians in Central and Western New York, where he became enamored of a young girl of sixteen named Margaret Feeck. He was twelve years her senior, but she reciprocated his love. Her parents "denied the banns," and attempted to break off the engagement by a forcible confinement. But "love laughs at locksmiths," and under pretence of going to milk a cow some distance from home, she stole away barefooted one evening, to meet her lover, according to an appointment through a trusty young friend. She forded the Schoharie Creek, found him upon the bank of the stream, and mounting his horse behind him they entered the fort amid the cheering of the inmates. The ladies fitted her with suitable garments, her betrothed gave her a silk gown, and they were married at the house of the Rev. Mr. Johnson of Schenectady, living in entire happiness, and being forgiven by her parents. Murphy lost his Margaret in 1807, married again, and died in 1818.

**419.—What are the eight motions of the earth?**

1. Rotation on axis, producing day and night.
2. Revolution in its orbit.
3. Precession of the



equinoxes in 25,868 years. 4. Change of perihelion in 20,984 years. 5. Change of obliquity of ecliptic. 6. Nutation caused by moon, 18½ years. 7. Planetary perturbations. 8. Translation through space—the greatest of all.

#### 420.—What is the pluviometer?

A rain-gauge or instrument by which the quantity of rain that falls on any area can be determined. It is generally constructed in the form of a cylindrical vessel with a horizontal base, surmounted by a funnel-shaped top of the same diameter as the vessel. A glass tube enters the bottom of the vessel from the outside, and allows the water to mount in it to the same height as that in the inside. This gauge is placed in an exposed position, where it is free from eddies or whirls. If during any given time the water in the instrument is one inch deep, then during that time the rainfall over the area equals one inch.

#### 421.—Does the Mississippi River flow uphill?

The mouth of the Mississippi is about *two and one-third miles* (12,090 feet) farther from the centre of the earth than its source. In this sense it may be said to run "uphill." This fact is one of the most convincing proofs of the rotation of the earth. Were the earth to cease its rotation, the Mississippi would flow toward Lake Itasca with a strong current,

**422.—What is the weight of a man's heart?**

The average weight of men's hearts is eleven ounces each, and of women's only nine ounces. Thus when they give and take, or exchange hearts, man is the loser, quality being equal. Man's average brain weighs  $49\frac{1}{2}$  ounces and woman's 44. The average weight of both lungs is for men 45 ounces, and for women 32 ounces. Garfield's right lung weighed 32 and the left 27 ounces, making 59 ounces of lungs, or 14 ounces in excess of the average. Lungs crepitate under the finger owing to minute air-cells, and they constitute the only organ of the body that will float on water. Antenatal lungs do not crepitate, but are of an inferior texture, like the liver, and sink in water. It is not till the lungs have performed their office of breathing that they float. As compared with man, then, woman has of brain 89 per cent, of heart 82 per cent, and of lungs 71 per cent; and yet her voice can be heard as far and as often as the voice of a man.

**423.—What animal has teeth in its stomach?**

The snail. The facts relative to the teeth of various animals are quite interesting. The hog-fish has one tooth, while turtles have none. The lion has six incisors on each jaw; the squirrel, two. Cows and oxen have no front upper teeth; while the horse has the two "sets." Some animals have

as high as three hundred teeth. The archæopteryx and two other kinds of birds have teeth. The radiates (star-fish) have five triangular teeth. Bear's and whale's teeth are alike. Carnivorous animals work jaws vertically, while the herbivorous move theirs horizontally.

#### 424.—What animal has eight eyes?

The spider. The radiates have five eyes—the only animal with an odd number. Snails have eyes on the ends of their horns. The eyes of reptiles resemble those of birds. Some have three eyelids; others, as serpents, have none, and hence their fixed and staring look. The chameleon's eyeball is very large for so small a head, protruding, and is protected by a single lid which has this peculiarity—a little aperture in the centre for a very small pupil. Among other interesting data are the following: That all insects have six legs; the largest shell-fish known, the *tridactua*, has three mouths; the smallest animal is  $\frac{2}{1000}$  of an inch long—as many times smaller than a fly as a fly is than a whale; whales communicate to each other miles away; a horse's head is always as long as a flour-barrel, by actual measurement; the humming-bird is the smallest of his species, and it never lights on the ground; there are three hundred kinds, and their eggs are the size of buckshot; all mammalia have seven bones in the neck.

**425.—How do snakes bite?**

Rattlesnakes and their allies, copperheads, moccasins, etc., are armed with sharp-pointed, movable poison-fangs, which are concealed in a fold of the gum or raised, at the will of the animal. They connect with a gland situated near the eye, which furnishes the fluid poison. When the snake bites the fangs are raised, and the pressure of the temporal muscles upon the gland forces the poison along the fang into the wound. The only known remedy for a snake-bite is intoxication superinduced by some form of alcoholic drink.

**426.—What is the "punctum cœcum"?**

The "blind spot" which every person has in his eye, though in different individuals it seems to act in various ways. One ordinary method of ascertaining this peculiarity is to compare a drawing in black with one of the same size in white, the latter appearing the larger of the two. White color has always the appearance of increased size, and this has been offered as one reason for keeping a black polish upon shoes and boots. A person dressed in full black always appears smaller than when wearing clothes of lighter color—a white vest giving the appearance of "fatness." A letter T drawn thus, with each arm of the letter of the *same* length, gives the perpendicular line the appearance of being much longer than the horizontal. Certain letters will always look smaller than others, and

it is a fact that sign-painters always make the "c" and "o" a little longer than the remaining letters; otherwise, though of the same length, they destroy the *harmony* of the looks of the word. An "s," large or small, is always made larger in the lower turn.

**427.—What is the "window of the soul"?**

The iris of the eye, which is situated in the centre of the choroid coat or tunic. It has the power of contraction and expansion. The pupils of various animals vary in shape, those of carnivorous or flesh-eating animals being vertically elliptical,—that is, up and down,—while those of herbivorous or grass-eating animals are horizontally elliptical, or running lengthwise. Those of human beings are round or circular.

**428.—What became of Cicero's work on "Glory"?**

Raimond Saranzo, a Roman lawyer, possessed two books of Cicero "on Glory," which he presented to Petrarch (1304–1374), the lyric poet of Italy, who loaned them to a poor aged man of letters, formerly his instructor. Urged by extreme want, the preceptor pawned them, and returning home died suddenly without having revealed to any one their depository. They have never been recovered. Petrarch mentions them with ecstasy, and relates that he had studied them perpetually.

Two centuries afterward, this treatise on *Glory* by Cicero was mentioned in a catalogue of books bequeathed to a monastery of nuns, but upon inquiry was found to be missing. It was supposed that Petrus Alcyonius, physician to that household, purloined it, and after transcribing as much of it as he could into his own writings, had destroyed the original. Alcyonius, in his *De Exilio*, the critics observed, had many splendid passages which stood isolated in his work, and were quite above his genius. The beggar, or in this case the thief, was detected by mending his rags with patches of purple and gold.

#### 429.—Why was Greenland so named?

The discoverer called it *Hoidsærk* (white shirt), from the snowy southern headland, and this name was changed by Erik the Red in 983. He had fled from the Jader, in Norway, on account of his murder of another chief, and had settled in the western part of Iceland. Here he was also outlawed for manslaughter by the public assembly, and condemned to banishment. He therefore fitted out his ship and resolved to go in search of the land in the west, which he had heard other sailors had seen. Setting sail, he found the land as expected, and remained there exploring the country between two and three years. At the end of this period he returned to Iceland, giving the newly-discovered region the name of Greenland (*Grónland*), in order, as he said, to attract settlers, who would be favor-

ably impressed with so pleasing a name. The land had been discovered by the Northman Gunnbjorn in 876 or 877, who saw the eastern coast, but was wrecked on the rocks and did not land.

**430.—What is the tradition of the wooden nutmegs?**

There can be no doubt that the manufacture of them was in truth one of the infant industries of Connecticut. A medical practitioner in New Brunswick kept a small stock of drugs, to which he added an assortment of spices and other articles (as is usual in country drug-stores), in the early part of the present century. During the war of 1812-15 some of these became quite scarce, and with the return of peace the smuggling pedlers made a rush over the line and did a profitable business. Our doctor took the first opportunity of the kind to replenish his stock, buying, among other things, several pounds of nutmegs, as he knew there were none in the country, and he could dispose of them to other country storekeepers. But before he had sold any, his wife took occasion to "sample" them, and found them made of wood. He hushed the matter up, hoping, as he had bought the pedler's whole stock, that it would never become known; but the phrase is now common parlance in the Eastern States. The authority for this statement is Silas Barker, of Standish, Me., aged seventy-seven years.

**431.—What American spy was saved by a woman?**

Colonel Robert Cochran, who commanded a detachment of militia at Fort Edward, at the time of Burgoyne's surrender. In 1778 he was sent to Canada as a spy, and the British knowing of his errand offered a large bounty for his head. Obligated to conceal himself, he was at one time, while hiding in a brush heap, taken seriously ill. Hunger and disease forced him to venture to a log-cabin in sight, and while approaching he heard three men and a woman conversing on the subject of the reward for his head. Upon their departure in search of him, he crawled into the presence of the woman, told his name, and asked for protection. This she promised, gave him food and shelter, kept him concealed in a cupboard when the men returned, one of whom was her husband, and aided him by every means to recross into his army's lines. While at Ticonderoga years afterward, the colonel met his preserver and generously rewarded her. He died July 3, 1842.

**432.—What fortunes are associated with precious stones?**

Among certain Eastern nations these were associated with the months of the year, and the fortunes of a human being were believed to be influenced by the stone which belonged to his birth-month. The garnet is the stone of January, and insures "constancy and fidelity in every sort of



engagement." The amethyst belongs to February, and he who is born in that month should wear it as a "preservation against violent passions and drunkenness." March has the bloodstone, which "gives courage and wisdom in perilous undertakings and firmness in affection." April has the blue sapphire, which "flees from enchantment, and denotes repentance and kindness of disposition." May is represented by the emerald, which "discovers false witnesses, and insures happiness in love and domestic felicity." The agate belongs to June, and "causes its wearer to be invincible in all feats of strength, and insures long life, health, and prosperity." To July belongs the ruby, which "discovers poison, and cures all evils springing from the unkindness of friends." The sardonyx "insures conjugal felicity" to him who is born in August. The chrysolite "preserves from despair" him who is born in September. To October belongs the opal, which is not only the stone of "misfortune," but also of "hope." The pearl, which means "tears and pity," belongs to November. To him who is born in December, the light-blue turquoise assures "prosperity in love."

**433.—What nation burned themselves to death?**

The Numantines inhabited a city on the banks of the Douro River, in Spain. They were besieged by the Romans for twenty years, until Scipio Africanus the younger gained access to their citadel

in the year 133 B.C., just thirteen years after the destruction of Carthage. Their brave resistance had been unavailing, and seeing all hope gone, they set fire to the city and perished in the flames rather than become slaves to their conquerors.

**434.—How did the St. Lawrence derive its name ?**

From the fact that the river and gulf were discovered on the festival of St. Lawrence, the 10th of August, 1524, by Jacques Quartier (or Cartier), and so named by him on account of this circumstance.

**435.—Where are "The Black Rocks" ?**

The sea-shore eastward from Leith, near Edinburgh, Scotland, is very flat and bare. The tide recedes a long way, leaving a great expanse of beach, ugly and unpromising in appearance, but yielding a harvest to those poor persons who gather shell-fish, cockles or whelks, to sell in the poor streets and lanes of the Scottish capital. Every fortnight during the spring-tides the sea goes back so far that a group of bare rocks are entirely uncovered. These are named The Black Rocks, and few persons venture to walk out so far, for two reasons—there is really nothing to be gained by the long weary trudge over sloppy sand, and it is at all times a dangerous excursion to make. The rocks stand on a higher elevation than the rest of the beach, and any unwary person, by remaining too long upon them, would find himself cut off from

the land, as the sea will have crept in all around, while the platform upon which he stands is still high and dry. At full tide the rocks are entirely covered with water. Three children having lost their lives there some years ago, a strong iron cage has been erected, fully above the highest level ever reached by the sea, while an iron ladder of a few steps makes access to the cage quite easy, even for bewildered little children. Since that time no accident has occurred, while the cage has been the occasion more than once of saving life.

#### 436.—Where did the bean originate?

The common bean is believed to have originated in the East, and is still said to be found wild in Persia and other parts of Central Africa. In its natural state it is bitter and scarcely edible, being small, tough, and stringy, though it quickly yields to cultivation and becomes an excellent article of diet.

#### 437.—What was the "Welcome Nugget"?

The name applied to the largest lump of gold ever found in Australia. It was worth between forty and fifty thousand dollars. The nugget found near Fayetteville, N. C., and that was first used for propping open the door of a log-cabin in the years before the war, was sold to a jeweller in that city for a trifling sum, and afterwards disposed of for \$3000,

**438.—Who was the Great Queen, the mother of a king and two queens, and the mother-in-law of three sovereigns?**

Mary of Medicis, the widow of Henry the Great, mother of Louis XIII., and regent of France, frequently wanted the necessaries of life, and died at Cologne in the utmost misery. The intrigues of Richelieu compelled her to exile herself and live an unhappy fugitive.

**439.—Why were heretics burnt?**

They suffered thus under the Inquisition, as that body wished to elude the maxim "*Ecclesia non novit sanguinem*," for burning a body, they said, does not *shed his blood*. Otho, the bishop at the Norman invasion of England, in the tapestry worked by Matilda, the queen of William the Conqueror, is represented with a mace in his hand, for the purpose that in dispatching his enemy he might not *spill* blood, but only break his bones.

**440.—Who was the great American squaw?**

Mary Jemison, who was taken a captive near Fort Duquesne (Pittsburg) when a child, and was reared among the Indians, marrying a chief and becoming an Indian in every respect except birth. She was present with her husband at the great "council-fire" held between Guy Johnson and other British officers with the Six Nations in 1777,

when each of the savages were given a brass kettle, a suit of clothes, a gun, a tomahawk and scalping-knife, a piece of gold, a quantity of ammunition, and a promise of bounty upon every scalp he should bring in. In her pamphlet written in 1823—*Life of Mary Jemison*—she states that the brass kettles were then in use among the Seneca Indians.

**441.—Where did George Washington refuse a crown?**

In the "Temple" at Newburg, N. Y., his old headquarters, and where the patriot army was disbanded on October 28, 1783. The victorious army, filled with love and adulation for their commander, offered him the sovereign power, which he gently but firmly declined. A centennial celebration was a noted feature there in 1883.

**442.—How many commanders has our army had?**

Since the adoption of the Constitution in 1789, the army of the United States has had but fourteen commanding officers, including the present incumbent, Lieutenant-General Sheridan. The first of these was Brevet Brigadier-General Josiah Har-mar, lieutenant-colonel of infantry, who was senior officer of the army from September, 1789, to March 4, 1791. Then followed Major-General Arthur St. Clair, "mad" Anthony Wayne, James Wilkinson, Henry Dearborn, Jacob Brown, Major-General Macomb, Winfield Scott, George B. McClellan,

Henry W. Halleck, U. S. Grant, and William T. Sherman. Washington had resigned from the army before the Constitution was adopted, at Annapolis, on December 23, 1783.

**443.—Who first discovered America?**

Charles Kingsley (1819–1875) claimed in a series of lectures given some years since in Boston, that Bjarne Grimolfson as early as the year 1020 had certainly visited these shores, and that it was not likely that even he was the first. The lecture of Mr. Kingsley abounded with ancient citations of the most interesting kind, containing many references to early Norse and English history, and, from the reports of explorers and the traditions of their successors, the lecturer held that the old Norse navigators not only discovered these shores, but coasted so far south as to hear of that high civilization which all antiquarians admit to have once existed in the milder zone of our continent.

**444.—What is the Swiss “Good-night”?**

Among the lofty mountains and elevated valleys of Switzerland the Alpine horn has another use beside that of sounding the far-famed *Ranz des Vaches*, or Cow Song; and this is of a very solemn and impressive nature. When the sun has set in the valley, and the snowy summits of the mountains gleam with golden light, the herdsman who dwells upon the highest inhabited spot takes his horn, and pronounces clearly and loudly through it,

as through a speaking-trumpet, "Praise the Lord God !" As soon as the sound is heard by the neighboring herdsmen, they issue from their huts, take their Alpine horns, and repeat the same words. This frequently lasts a quarter of an hour, and the call resounds from all the mountains and rocky cliffs around. All the herdsmen kneel and pray with uncovered heads. Meantime it has become quite dark. "Good-night !" at last calls the highest herdsman through his horn. "Good-night !" again resounds from all the mountains, the horns of the herdsmen, and the rocky cliffs. The mountaineers then retire to their dwellings and to rest.

**445.—What incident caused Roger Ascham to write the "Schoolmaster"?**

At a dinner-party given by Sir William Cecil, at his apartments at Windsor, a number of ingenious men were invited. Secretary Cecil communicated the news of the morning, that several of the pupils at Eton had run away on account of their master's severity, which he condemned as a great error in the education of youth. Sir William Petre maintained the contrary; severe in his own temper, he pleaded warmly in defence of hard flogging. Dr. Wootton in softer tones sided with the Secretary. Sir John Mason, adopting no side, bantered both. Mr. Haddon seconded the hard-hearted Sir William Petre, and adduced as evidence that the best schoolmaster then in England was the hardest "whipper." Then Roger Ascham (1515-1568) indig-

nantly exclaimed that if such a master had an able pupil it was owing to the boy's genius and not the preceptor's rod. Secretary Cecil and others were pleased with Ascham's heartfelt denial. Sir Thomas Sackville was silent, but when Ascham after dinner went to the queen to read one of the orations of Demosthenes, he led him aside and frankly told him that, though he had taken no part in the debate, he would not have been absent from that conversation for a great deal; that he knew to his cost the truth that Ascham had supported, for it was the perpetual whipping of such a school-master that had given him an unconquerable aversion to study. And as he wished to remedy this defect in his own children, he earnestly exhorted Ascham to write his observations on so interesting a topic; and such was the circumstance that produced this admirable treatise.

#### 446.—When was Patagonia settled?

About 120 miles from the eastern entrance of the Strait of Magellan is Port Famine, so named by the English navigator Cavendish, who in 1585 rescued the only survivor of a colony of four hundred Spaniards who had settled there in 1581 to form a nucleus to protect the Spanish commerce. The place was called Phillipville in honor of their reigning monarch. The unfortunate settlers were left without adequate provisions, and did not pay sufficient attention to their crops. When the place was visited by Cavendish he found only one indi-



vidual alive, whom he carried to England. All the rest had perished by famine, except twenty-three who set sail for the Rio de la Plata, and were never again seen.

**447.—What was the name of Molly Pitcher?**

The maiden name of this heroine of the battle of Monmouth, June 28, 1778, was Mary Ludwig, and according to the current historian she was "Dutch as sauer-kraut." She first married a McCauley or McCaully, and then John Hay, who was not killed but only stunned by the force of a cannon-ball. Congress voted her half-pay for life. She died January 22, 1832, and her grave is at Carlisle, Cumberland County, Pa., where on an old and moss-covered tomb you may read "Sacred to the memory of Mollie McCauley (otherwise known as Molly Pitcher), the heroine of Monmouth," etc.

**448.—What author sold his corpse to the doctors?**

Vaugelas, the most polished writer of the French language, who devoted thirty years to his translation of Quintus Curtius (a labor of which modern translators have no realization), died possessed of nothing valuable but his precious manuscripts. This ingenious scholar left his corpse to the surgeons for the benefit of his creditors.

**449.—Did you ever see a black peach?**

A planter in Georgia has peach-trees with black leaves, and the peaches are black till they are about half grown, when they begin to turn white. No other trees like them are known.

**450.—How was the "Literary Fund" created?**

The death of Sydenham, who devoted his life to a laborious version of Plato, was very affecting. He died in a spunging-house, and his death appears to have given rise to the Literary Fund "for the relief of distressed authors."

**451.—What was the origin of the tradition of Dr. Faustus and the Devil?**

It is said to have been derived from the odd circumstance in which the Bibles of the first printer, Fust, appeared to the world; but if Dr. Faustus and Faustus the printer are two different persons, the tradition becomes suspicious, though in some respects it has a foundation in truth. When Fust had discovered this new art, and printed a considerable number of copies of the Bible to imitate those which were commonly sold as MSS., he undertook the sale of them at Paris. It was his interest to conceal this discovery, and to pass off his printed copies for MSS. But, enabled to sell his Bibles at sixty crowns while the other scribes demanded five hundred, this raised universal astonishment; and still more when he produced cop-

ies as fast as they were wanted, and even lowered his price. The uniformity of the copies increased the wonder. "Informations" were given against him to the magistrates as a magician; and in searching his lodgings a great number of copies were found. The red ink (and Fust's red ink is peculiarly brilliant) which embellished his copies was said to be his blood; and it was solemnly adjudged that he was in league with the *Infernals*. Fust at length was obliged to reveal his art, to save himself from a bonfire, to the Parliament of Paris, who discharged him from all prosecution in consideration of this wonderful invention.

452. — What was Napoleon's favorite game?

Chess. George Vanderbilt, the literary member of the rich family, is the owner of the chess-table and chess-men that formerly belonged to Napoleon I., and which he used during his exile at St. Helena. There is even more of a ghastly interest attached to this souvenir. It was standing by the table when the physicians were making their *post-mortem* examination of the dead emperor, and when they took out the heart they pulled open one of the drawers of this little table and laid the heart upon it, and to-day one may see the deep stains of the blood on the inside of the drawer. This relic belonged to Mr. McHenry of London, England, of railroad celebrity, who presented it as a birthday-gift to Mr. Vanderbilt.

**453.—How old is the game of marbles?**

A century ago in Birmingham, England, it was a popular amusement with staid and professional men to assemble in the marble "alleys" or alcoves connected with the inns of the town, to pass an hour or two in this amusement. Gray old men, genuine grandfathers, would hang their cocked hats on oaken pegs, and taking from private hooks their own particular knee-caps of stoutly-lined leather, go plump upon their knees and engage in the delights of "alley-toss" and "common-eyes" and the familiar cry of "knuckle-down." A few of these alcoves are still in existence in connection with ancient hostelrys.

**454.—What is "obsidian"?**

A substance well known to the people living in volcanic countries. It looks like glass, and is as black as coal; it is really a species of vitrified silice. A chemist of Pittsburg has produced an artificial substitute, which has been made into a number of ornamental articles, and in having slabs of it polished in New York City has discovered the lost art of making black mirrors.

**455. — What was the highest-priced Bible?**

Ptolemy Philadelphus, an ancient Egyptian monarch, gave the Jews about \$5,000,000 for a copy of the Old Testament, and paid half as much more to the men who translated it.

**456.—What was the origin of the name “foolscap” paper?**

When Oliver Cromwell became Protector of England, he caused the stamp of the Cap of Liberty to be placed upon the paper used by the government. Soon after the restoration of Charles II. (1660), when he had occasion to use some paper for dispatches, this government paper was brought to him. Upon looking at it he inquired the meaning of the design, and on being told, he threw it violently aside, saying, “Take it away; I’ll have nothing to do with a fool’s cap.” Thus originated this word, which has since been given to a size of writing paper usually about 16 by 13 inches.

**457.—What two cities were once called the “Eyes of Asia”?**

Smyrna and Ephesus. The former still stands, but only a few ruins of the latter are to be seen.

**458.—In memory of what person is the head on the one cent?**

Pocahontas, the Indian queen of Virginia, and saviour of Captain John Smith’s life.

**459.—What is the highest city in the world?**

Pasco, in Peru, which is about 13,673 feet above the level of the ocean.

**460.—What is the story of the Black Hole of Calcutta?**

The site of this famous prison well or cave, which was lately discovered, has been filled, and a white marble tablet with a suitable inscription has been placed near the spot. It was in that foul apartment, twenty feet square, that the Nabob Suraja Dowlah confined the English garrison, one hundred and forty-six in number, during the night of June 18, 1756. Only twenty-three ghastly sufferers were found living the next morning.

**461.—What celebration is held annually in July by the Swiss people?**

On the ninth of July, in each returning year, the Swiss people assemble at the little town of Sempach, on the spot where the great battle was fought in 1386 that insured the freedom of their native land. The place of combat is marked by four stone crosses, and from a pulpit erected in the open air a priest delivers a thanksgiving sermon. Another priest then reads aloud a description of the battle, and recites the names of the brave men who fell in the cause of liberty. This was the scene of the self-sacrifice of Arnold de Winkleried, and not only in the land he loved so well, but in every country that admires heroism and self-denial will his name be held in honor, whenever the deed he did in his death is told.

**462.—What was Tam o' Shanter's ride?**

*Tam o' Shanter* is the title of a poem by Burns, and the name of its hero a farmer, who, riding home very late at night in a state of intoxication from Ayr, had to pass the kirk of Alloway, a place reputed to be the favorite haunt of his Satanic majesty and his friends and emissaries. Looking into the edifice he saw the witches merrily dancing round their master, who sat playing the bagpipe. Tam was so pleased with the "steps" of the dancers that he involuntarily exclaimed, "Well done, Cutty sark!" whereupon in a moment all was dark, and Tam, recollecting himself, spurred his horse away through the storm, followed by the whole fiendish crew. It is the popular belief in Scotland that evil spirits have no power to follow a mortal farther than the middle of the next running stream. The river Doon was near, and this alone saved Tam; for when he had reached the middle of the arch of the bridge—and consequently over that part of the river—"Cutty sark" sprang forward to seize him, but fortunately nothing was on her side of the river but the horse's tail, which immediately gave way at her furious grip, leaving the hero free to continue his long-remembered ride.

**463.—Who shot General Rahl, the Hessian commander?**

Frederic Frelinghuysen, son of Reverend John Frelinghuysen of Raritan, New Jersey. A graduate of Princeton College in 1770, he entered the

military service of his country at the beginning of the Revolution, and was captain of a militia company at the battle of Trenton, December 26, 1776. He was afterward promoted to the rank of colonel, which office he held during the war. A member of the Continental Congress, he also served as senator from New Jersey under Washington's administration, dying in April, 1804, aged about fifty-two years.

464. — What is the origin of the terms "Badgers" and "Suckers"?

The first term, applied to the people and State of Wisconsin, arose in a singular way. In the lead regions, in early times, there were two classes of miners—those who remained at the mines the year round, and those who came up from Illinois to operate only during the summer. The permanent residents were accustomed to dig burrows in the hill-side, where they cooked, ate, and slept, while the Illinois itinerants lived in pits. The residents therefore were called "badgers" on account of their burrows, and to the Illinoisans was applied the term "suckers," because their migrations coincided in time with that of the suckers in the river, which appeared in the spring of the year and went away in the fall. Both of these cognomens have remained, and are at the present time in general use.

465.—Who was the Pegasus of mythology?

He was not so much a monster as a prodigy,



being a winged horse, said to have sprung from the blood which fell on the ground when Perseus cut off the head of Medusa. He fixed his residence on Mount Helicon, where he opened the fountain called Hippocrene. He was a favorite of the Muses, and is called the "Muses-horse." The horse having come into the possession of Bellerophon, enabled him to overcome the Chimæra. Afterward, Pegasus, under an impulse from Jupiter, threw off his rider, who wandered o'er the earth, while he ascended to a place among the stars.

**466.—Who was Echo?**

In mythology, she was the daughter of Air and Telus, and one of Juno's attendants. She was deprived of speech by this jealous queen, but allowed to reply to questions put to her.

**467. — When was Independence Bell rung?**

It has often been said and reiterated, but is nevertheless not true, that as soon as Congress had declared the independence of the colonies, on July 4, 1776, in Philadelphia, that what is known as Independence Bell was rung. Pretty poems to the effect that a blue-eyed boy "stood at the door of the hall, and cried out, 'Tis done! 'tis done! ring, graybeard, ring'!" have also been written, painting the action as a signal for an enthusiastic old gentleman up in the steeple to proclaim "liberty throughout all the land" by ringing the bell. It is

an undeniable fact that independence was declared in secret session, circulars being sent on the 5th to the various assemblies, conventions, and councils of safety of the several States, requesting that the declaration be proclaimed. The Philadelphia papers published on the *fifth* were silent upon the subject; it was not known until the *sixth*, and was first publicly read in the State House yard, by John Nixon, on the *eighth* of July, amid a general rejoicing, lighting of bonfires, and ringing of bells—the Liberty bell being one of the first, if not the first, to ring out the glad tidings. The story originated with the ingenious and versatile George Lippard.

468.—When was the New Jersey “tea-party”?

In December, 1773, two of the “detested tea-ships” sailed up Delaware River as far as Gloucester Point. There they were ordered to anchor, and to proceed no farther at their peril, by a committee delegated for that purpose from the mass-meeting of eight thousand persons then being held in the State-House yard. Allowing the captain of one of the ships, the *Polly*, to visit the city and witness the strongly-manifested feelings of the people, he thought best to sail for Europe at once, the consignees of the tea being forced to resign. In November, 1774, the brig *Greyhound*, bound to the City of Brotherly Love with a cargo of tea, landed at Greenwich, on the New Jersey shore. The cargo was discharged there, and placed in the cellar of a

house standing in front of the market grounds. On the evening of the twenty-second, about fifty men disguised as Indians broke into this storehouse, taking the tea-chests and piling them in a neighboring field, where they set fire to them. Legal actions were brought against some of the leading young men engaged in this transaction, who afterward held various important positions of trust, but the war breaking out, and courts of justice being abolished or suspended, they were abandoned?

**469.—What is the story of Washington's courtship?**

In 1758, attended by a servant, he crossed the Pamunkey River on a military mission of importance at Williamsburg. Stopping for a moment at the house of a friend, a Mr. Chamberlayne, in New Kent County, he was pressed to remain. He at first declined, but the graces of Mrs. Curtis, who was a guest at the house, quieted the scruples of the speeding warrior so effectually, that his stay was prolonged for two days and a night. He had met his domestic fate, and Mrs. Curtis became Mrs. Washington on the 6th of January following, the ceremony being performed by the Rev. David Mossom at St. Peter's Church, near "the White House," in the county above mentioned.

**470.—When were horses first brought to America?**

The first horses landed in any part of North

America were carried over to Florida by Cabeza de Vaca in 1527; they all perished. The wild horses found in the plains of Texas and the Western prairies are probably descendants of the Spanish horses abandoned by De Soto. In 1625, part of the trade of the Dutch West India Company was the carrying of horses from Flanders to New York, and that year seven horses were safely transported from France to America.

**471.—When was the Battle of Craney Island fought?**

By the bravery and skill of the men of Norfolk, Portsmouth, and the surrounding country at Craney Island, the two cities were saved from the merciless ravages of the invading foe on the twenty-second of June, 1813. The British loss at Fort McHenry was less than at Craney Island, but the former victory cost an American loss of one hundred and seventy-three killed and wounded, while the latter was won without an American loss of life or limb.

**472.—When was the first marriage in the colonies?**

In 1609, in Virginia, the first Christian marriage ceremony was performed according to English rites, when Miss Annie Burroughs became Mrs. John Layden. This was eleven years before Mary Chilton, the first person to set foot on Plymouth Rock, stood alone on the "wild New England

shore." A woman was the leader of the deed, as Mr. Winthrop relates the tradition.

#### 473.—Where is Columbus buried ?

The great discoverer died and was buried at Valladolid in Spain, in 1506. In 1512 his bones were transported to Seville. His son, Don Diego, died in 1526. Ten years after this, the remains of Columbus and his son were removed to the island of San Domingo, and interred in the principal cathedral of that city. It is claimed, upon very good authority, that when Spain relinquished control of the island, and came to remove the remains of Columbus to the Cathedral in Havana, in 1796, the fact had been forgotten that two bodies were deposited there, and when the disinterment was made, they took up the remains of the son, which they buried with imposing ceremonies. Tradition tells us that a sly old monk purposely pointed out the location that led them to exhume the remains of the son instead of the father. The mistake was discovered in 1878.

#### 474.—What became of Lord Cornwallis ?

After the surrender at Yorktown, October 19, 1781, he was temporarily removed from the Governorship of the Tower of London, but it was subsequently restored to him, and he retained it for life. Five years after the surrender he received the Garter, and became the successor of Warren Hastings at Calcutta, and succeeded in bringing

Tippoo Saib to terms (1786-93). Returning to England, he was elected a Privy Councillor and raised to a marquisate. In 1798 he went to Ireland to quell the rebellion. This mission was most distasteful to him, as his letters amply testify. His next service was as Plenipotentiary in connection with the Treaty of Amiens. In 1804 he was again sent to India, as Governor-General, and died there the following year. He lies in St. Paul's Cathedral.

**475.—When were bounties offered for Indian scalps?**

John Penn, a grandson of William, was lieutenant-governor of Pennsylvania when the province became engaged in hostilities with the Delawares, Shawanese, and Seneca Indians, who were committing dreadful atrocities on the western frontier. In July, 1764, he offered, by proclamation, the following bounties: "For every male above the age of ten years, captured, \$150; scalped, being killed, \$134; for every female Indian enemy, and every male under ten years, captured, \$130; for every female above the age of ten years, scalped, \$50." The Indians were defeated, and sued for peace in the autumn of that year.

**476.—When was silk raised in Virginia?**

During the reign of King James I. of England, who sent over from his own private stock abundant supplies of silkworm eggs. King Charles II. had his coronation robes made of Virginia-raised

silk, and Lord Chesterfield was clad in a gown of silk from Virginia when he appeared on occasions of ceremony.

**477.—When is the dance of the Coskeis?**

On the Japanese New Year, which is a day of unusual and universal rejoicing and hilarity. There toy-venders, lantern-men, grotesque masks, and trees like our Christmas trees fill the streets; amulet-sellers abound, tea-houses and saké-shops are thronged, and all is life, merriment, and activity. Among those who roam the streets, to divert others and themselves, in quaint attire, fantastic head-dresses, and bird-shaped masks, are the Coskeis --the cooks and servants of the minor nobility or well-to-do gentry. Their disguise is peculiar. They cover the head with a sort of conical hat of green paper, which comes so low as nearly to conceal the face; they wear also a white apron, with symbolical figures embroidered in red silk. In this costume they go from door to door, singing and dancing and beating time on two pieces of bamboo. The money they collect goes to pay for their holiday revelry. All the tea-houses are open to them; but in the better class they take the Coskeis into their private rooms, and entertain them there, so as to avoid any disagreeable meeting between master and servant at the public tables,

**478.—How many different kinds of postage-stamps are there ?**

The number which has been issued hitherto all over the world is estimated, in round numbers, to be six thousand. Among them are the effigies of five emperors, eighteen kings, three queens, one grand-duke, six princes, one princess, and a great number of presidents, etc. Some of the stamps bear coats of arms and other emblems—as crowns, the papal keys and tiara, anchors, eagles, lions, horses, stars, serpents, railway trains, horsemen, messengers, etc. The collection preserved in the museum of the Berlin post-office included, on July 1, 1879, 4498 specimens of different postage-stamps. Of these, 2462 were from Europe, 441 from Asia, 251 from America, and 201 from Australia.

**479.—What Indian presented Oglethorpe with a buffalo-skin ?**

Tomochichi, the Indian chief, who made an eloquent speech when presenting him with the buffalo-skin decorated with the head and feathers of the eagle. A painting representative of the landing of Oglethorpe and his followers, and their reception by the aborigines, including the king of Yamacraw, and his nephew, Tooanahowi, son of his brother, king of Etiahitas, was borne in the pageant of the sesqui-centennial celebration held in Savannah on February 12, 1883.



**480.—How was Mt. Vernon purchased?**

It was in 1858 that Colonel John Washington saw that the ancestral homestead would have to go by the auctioneer's hammer if something was not done. This is the romance of Mount Vernon. Anne Parmelia Cunningham of South Carolina, who had been a confirmed invalid since her nineteenth year, was an only and indulged daughter. This brave woman, from her sick bed, aroused an enthusiasm, especially among Southern women, that resulted in a splendid success. She inspired Edward Everett with her spirit, and his lecture on "Washington" poured money into the treasury. She interested Mme. Le Vert and Mrs. Cora Mowatt Ritchie, and in 1860 it was accomplished — the realization of her project; the house, the tomb of Washington and two hundred acres of land, belonged to a national association.

**481.—What causes Albinos?**

The *pigmentum nigrum* (black paint) situated on the outside of the retina of the eye gives coloring to it, and its use is to absorb the rays of light entering the "organ of vision." When this pigment is wanting the eye is entirely pinkish, and people with such eyes are called Albinos. There are people of this peculiarity among both white and black, who additionally have white hair and a skin of remarkable whiteness. Why do their eyes present a pinkish or red appearance? Because, as the color-

ing matter is missing, we see only the blood-vessels in their eyes.

**482.—Who was “the bride of death”?**

A beautiful girl, named Molly Harvey, the daughter of wealthy parents, loved a young patriot soldier by the name of Seymour. He was poor, and no engagement was allowed to be made. Determined to distinguish himself, Seymour went to South Carolina and served with gallantry at the battle of Sullivan's Island, June 28, 1776. Joining the army under Washington, he commanded a company in the battle of Brandywine, September 11, 1777. After the battle he obtained leave of absence for three days, and visiting the house of Mr. Harvey, gained the consent of the parents to a marriage with the object of his affections, and the nuptials were celebrated. The friends and relatives were assembled under the trees enjoying the festivities, when two British soldiers approached and attempted to make Seymour their prisoner. A struggle ensued, during which the bride was killed by a bayonet-thrust. The day of her marriage was the day of her death.

**483.—What lake has water of different colors?**

Lake Maggiore, the largest of the Switzerland lakes, being thirty-seven miles in length and four and a half in width. On the western shore is the small town of Baveno, and here are the Borromeap

Islands, so called from two of them, Isola Bella and Isola Madre, being the property of the Borromeo family. On the first of these is a château about two hundred years old, containing a collection of pictures. The scenery around the Borromean Islands is magnificent. The Isola dei Pescatori, or Fisherman's Island, is the most picturesque. The waters of the northern branch of the lake are green, while those of the southern are a deep blue.

484.—To what author did the legislature of Pennsylvania pay twenty-five hundred dollars?

To Thomas Paine (1737-1809) for *Common Sense*, the title of a pamphlet written by him and published about the commencement of the year 1776. "It was the earliest and most powerful appeal in behalf of independence, and probably did more to fix that idea firmly in the public mind than any other instrumentality."

485.—Where is there a leather cannon?

One is preserved in the Royal Arsenal at Copenhagen, the only one remaining of a battery of twelve carried from Sweden by Charles XII., to use against Copenhagen. It was invented by the king, to be strong and light for transportation. A steel tube was wound spirally with leather straps two inches wide, and all covered with leather. The trunnions were attached to a short iron band in the proper position. Charles transported the battery

from Malmo in Sweden to the capital of Denmark, on the ice, a distance of sixteen miles.

**486.—What is the Pool of Lethe?**

In the mythology of the Greeks, Lethe's Pool is the stream of forgetfulness, from which souls drink before passing into the Elysian Fields, that they may forget all earthly sorrows.

**487. — Who first used the expression "Defend me from my friends"?**

The French *Ana* assign to Marechal Villars, taking leave of Louis XIV., this aphorism: "Defend me from my friends: I can defend myself from my enemies." Canning in *The New Morality* wrote:

"But of all plagues, good Heaven, thy wrath can send,  
Save, save, oh save me from the candid friend."

**488.—What is the great central sun?**

The hypothesis that the solar system is revolving around a central sun was first suggested by Wright in 1750. Mädler supposed that this was the star *Alcyone* in the Pleiades; but it is not believed by astronomers that sufficient evidence exists for this hypothesis. The only fact that is established is that the great retinue of revolving worlds is moving in space toward a point in the constellation Hercules.

**489.—What causes the brilliancy of a cat's eyes?**

It is caused by a carpet of glittering fibres called

the *topeum*, which lies behind the retina, and is a powerful reflector. In perfect darkness no light is observed in their eyes—a fact which has been established by very careful experiments. Nevertheless, a very small amount of light is sufficient to produce the luminous appearance in them.

#### 490.—When was the blackbird white?

There is a curious story of the blackbird, that its original color was white, but that it became black because in one year three of the days were so cold that it had to take refuge in a chimney. These days (January 30 and 31, and February 1) are called in the neighborhood of Brescia, Italy, "*I gionri della merla*," "the blackbird's days." Joseph Addison (1672-1719), in his poem the *Story of Coronis*, gives an account of a similar legend regarding the raven:

"The raven oncé in snowy plumes was drest,  
White as the whitest dove's unsullied breast,  
Fair as the guardian of the capitol,  
Soft as the swan; a large and lovely fowl.  
His tongue, his prating tongue had changed him quite  
To sooty blackness from the purest white."

#### 491.—What became of the Treaty Tree of William Penn?

It was blown down in 1810, when it was ascertained to be 283 years old. Of its remains, many chairs, vases, work-stands, and other articles have been made. A monument stands near the intersec-

tion of Hanover and Beach streets, Kensington, to mark the site of the Great Elm, erected by the Penn Society in 1827.

**492. — How did antimony derive its name?**

This mineral (Sb) was discovered by Basil Valentine, a monk of Germany, in the fifteenth century. It is said that, to test its properties, he first fed it to the swine kept at the convent, and found that they thrived upon it. He then tried it upon his fellow-monks, but perceiving that they died in consequence, he forthwith named the new metal in honor (?) of this fact, *anti-moine* (anti-monk), whence the term antimony is derived.

**493.—What are the “sharpshooters” among the fishes?**

Many singular creatures are known to science, but probably none of the lower animals have a more remarkable method of securing prey than the *chaetodon*, a beautiful Japanese fish. Seeing a fly lighted near the surface of the water, this fish gently approaches, and with unerring aim projects a drop of water at the unsuspecting insect, knocking it from its perch, when it is easily secured.

**494.—What are the various wedding anniversaries?**

Those celebrated of late years are as follows:

That at the expiration of the first year is called the cotton wedding; two years, paper; three years, leather or straw; five years, wooden; seven years, woollen; ten years, tin; twelve years, silk and fine linen; fifteen years, crystal; twenty years, china; twenty-five years, silver; thirty years, pearl; forty years, ruby; fifty years, golden; seventy-five years, diamond. These celebrations are usually originated and managed by the friends of the parties interested, for obvious reasons, and the presents must be of the material which conforms to the name of the anniversary.

495.—When was the eagle first used as an emblem?

The standard of the eagle was first borne by the Persians; and the Romans carried figures of the eagle, as ensigns, in silver and gold, and sometimes represented with a thunderbolt in its talons, on the point of a spear. The Romans adopted the eagle in the consulate of Marius, 102 B.C. When Charlemagne (742-814) became master of the whole of the German Empire, he added the second head to the eagle for his arms, to denote that the empires of Rome and Germany were united in him, in 802. The eagle was the imperial standard of Napoleon I.; and is that of Austria, Russia, and Prussia. Its adoption as the national emblem of the United States took place at an early period in the nation's history.

**496.—For what is the analeps noted?**

This viviparous fish of Eastern Asia has a singular eye. It is divided horizontally into two hemispheres by a membranous band. Each half is a perfect organ of vision. The two upper halves are long-sighted, and the two lower ones are near-sighted.

**497.—What was the original use of finger-rings?**

They are now regarded as ornaments only, though the marriage-ring has its peculiar signification. It is worn as a badge, and this was of old the chief use of rings. Many of the ancients used to wear them on the fourth finger as a sign of authority. The senators, knights, and magistrates wore them at Rome in its ancient days. One of the later emperors allowed all citizens to wear a gold ring. Before that the Roman ambassadors had carried rings as signs of their office. The custom of having a seal or signet engraved upon a ring is very ancient, and continues to the present day.

**498.—How did Andrew Jackson gain the "sobriquet" of "Old Hickory"?**

The origin of this nickname is said to be as follows: At the close of the war in 1815 Jackson's force was at Natchez, and while there he received orders from the Secretary of War to dismiss his corps, instead of which he conducted it back to Tennessee before disbanding it. It was on this



march his soldiers gave him the name of "Hickory," on account of his toughness. In time this was changed into "Old Hickory." Another and rather fanciful explanation of its origin is thus related: During the Creek war the soldiers were moving rapidly in order to surprise the Indians, and were without tents. A cold rain came on, which lasted several days, and Jackson caught a severe cold, but did not complain, sleeping on the wet ground among his half-frozen soldiers. Captain William Allen and his brother John cut down a stout hickory tree, peeled off the bark, and made a covering for the general, who was finally persuaded to crawl into it. The next morning an intoxicated citizen entered the camp, and seeing the bark shelter, kicked it over. As the general crawled from it, the toper cried out, "Hello, old hickory, come out of your bark!" additionally adding an invitation to join him in a drink.

499.—What monarch escaped from his enemies disguised as an Irish servant-girl?

Charles Edward, known as the *PRETENDER*, the grandson of James II. of England. He was defeated at the battle of Culloden on the 16th of April, 1746, a reward of \$150,000 being offered for his person. The last to leave the field, he was for five months a fugitive among the Highlands of Scotland, closely pursued by the spies and officers of the government. After various thrilling escapades, he

managed to reach the Isle of Skye, in the character and disguise of Betty Bourke, an Irish servant to Miss Flora M'Donald, daughter of a noted Highlander. The hero of other perilous adventures, he reached the Continent in September, 1746. His death occurred at Rome in 1784.

**500.—Who was the soldier that killed General Braddock?**

This British general died on the night of the 15th of July,—six days after the noted battle,—and was buried in the road, to prevent discovery of the place of interment by the Indians, the heavy road-wagons being driven over the spot. The remains were discovered a few years ago, were taken up, and placed in the cemetery at Uniontown, Fayette County, Penn. It is said that a man named Thomas Faucett (or Fausett), who was among the soldiers under Braddock, shot his general. Faucett resided near Uniontown at the close of the last century, and never denied the accusation. He excused his conduct by the plea that by destroying the general, who would not allow his men to fire from behind trees,—the true border warfare,—the remnant of the army was saved.

**THE END.**

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